

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

## DUBRIDGE, NIXON'S SCIENCE ADVISOR (PROFILE)

Dr. Lee A. DuBridge, named by President-elect Nixon to serve as his Science Advisor, may be expected to advocate a sound, balanced policy on specific issues such as the antimissile defense system, nuclear weapons refinement, the space program, big atom smashers and telescopes, ocean research, development of the supersonic transport and application of science to solving social and urban problems.

On one issue Dr. DuBridge will be bullish: the absolute need for continued strong federal support for basic scientific research.

A lifetime as scientist, educator and science advisor to the government -- he is sometimes called the "senior statesman of science" -- has convinced Dr. DuBridge that the road to new technology invention and products is through a broad-based, fundamental research effort.

At 67, Dr. DuBridge is leaving the California Institute of Technology after 22 years as its President to become Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, the chief science advisory post in the U.S. Government.

Mr. Nixon announced the appointment of Dr. DuBridge Tuesday and introduced the scientist to newsmen at a New York press conference.

"I will not be his political advisor nor economic advisor but will try to get the best scientific information in the country and present it to him," Dr. DuBridge said.

"Certainly my first interest" will be in expanding basic science, he said.

He joins the incoming administration at a time when the United States is enjoying a "golden era" of science. But it is also a time of escalating costs for scientific programs, a time of other priorities competing furiously for available funds, and a time of a downward trend in federal support of basic research at the universities after more than two decades of steady growth.

Dr. DuBridge is not a man to be panicked by talk of a "gap" in U.S. science relative to other nations, nor does he complacently believe the nation can rest on its laurels.

He said he sees no current lag in U.S. science behind the Soviet Union, but added America "must guard against it becoming so."

Typical of the balanced approach he may be expected to pursue is his position on the space effort after the moon landing is achieved.

He told newsmen a vigorous program should continue -- "science and technology cannot be turned off and on like a faucet" -- but exploration of the planets can be carried out with instrumented probes, instead of costly manned expeditions. Sensors that extend man's eyes and ears into space should be used to their limit before men are called on to enter deep space, he said.

The nation's cumulative investment in space research is a "very critical matter," he said, predicting it will pay off "in purely economic terms 100 times over through the eyars."

Born in Terre Haute, Indiana, Dr. Dubridge was trained in physics at Cornell College and the University of Wisconsin. In 1934 he became head of the physics department at the University of Rochester, New York.

From 1940 to 1945 he headed the radiation laboratory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which produced military radar for World War Two. He went to prestigious Caltech in 1946, but visited Washington frequently as one of the new generation of scientist-statesmen.

He came to advise science agencies and Congress as a member of the Atomic Energy Commission's General Advisory Committee, 1947-52; as member of the National Science Board (advising the National Science Foundation in its role as funder of basic research), 1950-54; as chairman of the Office of Defense Mobilization's Science Advisory Committee, predecessor of the influential President's Science Advisory Committee, 1952-54.

He has frequently urged that the National Science Foundation be given more funds to support across-the-board research in the United States.

He can be expected to advise Mr. Nixon to choose scientific priorities wisely with an eye to national defense as well as to civilian needs.

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## TRANSCRIPT OF NIXON-DUBRIDGE NEWS CONFERENCE

New York, December 3, 1968 -- Following is the transcript of the statements made Tuesday at a press conference by President-elect Nixon and his newly-appointed Science Advisor, Dr. Lee A. DuBridge.

Mr. Nixon: Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very pleased to announce today the second major appointment to the White House staff in a policy position.

In this case, I am pleased to present a man I have known for 22 years. He came to Caltech as President of that institution 22 years ago. That was the year I ran for the House of Representatives. I have had the opportunity for having his advice and counsel through the years, not in politics, but on scientific matters. He has earned a great deal of respect from me because of that advice and counsel, and I was delighted to find this year he is retiring as President of CalTech.

He has been able to escalate his retirement date so that he is able to assume the responsibilities immediately of Science Advisor to the President-elect and will, of course, be the Science Advisor to the President on January 20th.

His immediate plans are to go to Washington, D.C. and to talk with those whom he will succeed, and to make some recommendations to me in various other posts that may have some involvement with scientific matters.

I know that he met you Ladies and Gentlemen when he was here two or three weeks ago when he was being considered for this appointment, and I can only say in conclusion that, as he pointed out at that time, my statement during the campaign on the necessity for the United States to go forward on a major scientific research effort, particularly in the field of peaceful research, that statement stated a proposition with which Dr. DuBridge, I understand, is in complete accord.

He will have the primary responsibility to advise me as to programs, as to directions in this area, and now I will present him to you. He may have something to say and you may have some questions.

Dr. DuBridge: Thank you very much, Mr. Nixon and Gentlemen. I am delighted, honored and flattered to be asked to serve in this very important capacity, which I regard as a key science post in the United States Government.

I will do my best to advise Mr. Nixon on scientific and technical matters. I will not be his political advisor nor economic advisor, but I will try to get the best scientific advice and opinion and facts in the country and present my recommendations to Mr. Nixon on the scientific and technical matters which are so important in our government today.

As I told you last week, I was delighted with the statements he has made during the campaign, which reflect his long-time concern and interest in maintaining a powerful scientific and technological effort in this country as basic to our future welfare and security. I certainly want to support in every possible way the new government in adopting the policies and practices and procedures which will make this country still the greatest country in the field of science and engineering. Thank you.

Mr. Nixon: It is a coincidence that two task forces related to the scientific field were announced this morning, and while Dr. DuBridge, of course, would be too modest to say this, I should point out that the chairman of each task force has a Ph.D. from CalTech.

Dr. DuBridge: I will be very happy to work with those two task forces, which constitute a marvelous group of the scientific and engineering community of this country. They are already being assembled, and they are already at work. I have been in touch with the two chairmen and will work closely with them in developing general guidelines for the strengthening of our science and engineering program.

Question: Mr. Nixon or Dr. DuBridge, can you talk in terms of whether there is any single area of science that either of you feel has to receive some urgent attention; is there any single goal that stands above the others?

Mr. Nixon: I will refer to Dr. DuBridge on that.

Dr. DuBridge: The total scientific effort in this country is very extensive and complex. I think it is first very important to build our base of basic science, the new facts on which new technologies and new applied sciences are based. Therefore, the strengthening and continued growth of our basic science picture is certainly my first interest. However, basic science and applied science cannot be separated because the new discoveries in basic science are now very quickly adapted by the applied scientists for new things for the welfare and security of this country. Therefore, the very strong effort in applied science in many fronts is very important. Just what priorities will be assigned to the various efforts is something that will have to be worked out with the President of the United States as time goes on, and as we get the facts and see new opportunities for new and important breakthroughs.

Question: Will the United States get a man on the moon first, Doctor?

Dr. DuBridge: I don't know what the Russian plans are.

Question: There has been some concern that the lessening of appropriations, the slowing down of the space program, the losing of many key workers in that program, might tend to slow down the whole scientific technological advance. What are your feelings about that?

Dr. DuBridge: I think this is a very critical matter which Mr. Nixon has commented on already. The investment in scientific technology is a very important investment for this country to make. It pays off 100 times over. To reduce our efforts in graduate students, to reduce our activities in basic and important applied research is damaging to this country. You cannot turn it off and on like a faucet. There are many important men who have worked in this field who should not lie idle, and the graduate students should not be turned away from going forward with scientific and engineering activities as their future profession.

Question: Doctor, can you tell me about specific programs in which the Federal Government can encourage this research effort for peaceful purposes?

Dr. DuBridge: There are many areas. The basic governmental organization which provides support for university basic science is, of course, the National Science Foundation. I am very interested to see that continue in a strong capacity as the major stimulator of university basic research in all fields of science in this country.

But there are many other government agencies that have important and effective interests in university research -- the Office of Naval Research, portions of the program of the Space Agency, of the Atomic Energy Commission, of the Department of Defense, of the Public Health Service, and the National Institutes of Health.

We hope that all of these can be stimulated to continue and increase their support of basic science, as well as in the latter agencies, of their mission-oriented applied science program that is based on nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Ziegler: Mr. Nixon must get upstairs for another meeting. Dr. DuBridge will remain to take some more of your questions.

Question: May we ask Mr. Nixon one question before he goes? During the campaign, you suggested that some of the research effort might be turned over to the private sector, in order to reserve more of our Federal monies for certain strategic areas. Are there any particular areas now that you have in mind?

Mr. Nixon: This is a matter on which Dr. DuBridge will be advising me. He, of course, shares the concern that we make use of our entire facilities in developing scientific research.

Government plays a much bigger role now, and will continue to play a major role in this area, but to the extent that we can enlist the private sector, we shall do so. We need to increase the effort in both areas.

Question: Mr. Nixon, could I ask one more question? Do you think that there has been an alienation between the scientists, by many of the scientific community from the politicians or from the political leaders of this country?

Mr. Nixon: Yes, I would think so. I think there is a tendency, being quite candid, for people in the scientific community and people in the intellectual community generally, if I may use that in its broadest terms, to take a rather dim view of the political operator.

I think we would like to bridge that gap. One of the reasons that I was so pleased to have Dr. DuBridge take this assignment is that I think he will be able to reassure the scientific community that our interest is not simply what they can produce, but also in how they can counsel us and how they can advise us. He is going to bring to the White House from time to time -- this is one of the projects we discussed in our conversations -- leaders of thought in the scientific community not only from the United States but from abroad. They will come to the White House to give me and my associates in the government a chance to have a dialogue.

We might not become scientifically sophisticated -- it was not one of my better subjects when I was in school, I will admit -- but on the other hand, we have to have an understanding of this. I am looking forward with a great deal of anticipation to Dr. DuBridge setting up such seminars as he can.

Question: Mr. Nixon, organizationally, will Dr. DuBridge have the four jobs that go with the Science Advisor -- the present Special Assistant to the President, Chairman of the President's Science Advisory Committee, and so on?

Mr. Nixon: We haven't made a determination on whether or not the four jobs will be with Dr. DuBridge. We will make that decision at a later time and, of course, as Dr. DuBridge has already indicated, the National Science Foundation is the major government effort. I understand that an appointment as the head of that foundation will be the responsibility of the President in the next administration.

Let me just say that Dr. DuBridge will be my advisor in determining how these various positions should be filled and in determining whether or not they should be filled by one man or whether we should split the job.

Thank you.