



IT HAD TO HAPPEN IN A COUNTRY LIKE THIS

ON JULY 16, 1945, on a desert in New Mexico, a blinding flash ushered in the promise of a new era in our civilization. With electric enthusiasm, we caught sight of new horizons in medicine, sociology, and industry.

In the months that followed, there was an atmosphere of revolution which atomic fission was supposed to create. We heard of breath-taking cures, of a better life for all mankind, of incredible scientific progress. Throughout the nation and world the hopes of people were lifted higher and higher. Everyone was sure that something momentous was at hand.

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BUT PEOPLE who take the trouble to investigate—even now, three years later—discover quickly that something apparently went wrong with the prophecies.

In many places hard work is being done in an effort to harness atomic fission for power and industry—work largely financed by the Government for its war potential, or by industry for its profit potential. *But progress is being made at a snail's pace where it matters most: in extracting the secrets of atomic fission for the physical betterment of mankind.* Here, in a large measure, the atom promise remains little more than a promise.

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IN FEBRUARY, 1947, the Atomic Commissioner of France complained that Americans, with all their facilities, genius, and money, could quickly create an atomic bomb to destroy civilization, but are nowhere to be found when the only thing to gain is a better world.

In a country like this, such a challenge cannot long be ignored.

Our tradition, since the founding of the country, has been one of getting things done. European intellectuals in the past have reflected upon our intellectual maturity as a people; nations overseas that have taken our money and wanted more have accused us of having too much; *but no one has ever before accused the American people of shirking an important job for lack of energy, or organization, or determination to reach an objective.*

So it was destined that someone in this country would sooner or later shoulder the responsibility of providing the necessary inspiration, organization, funds, co-operation, and determination to fulfill the humanitarian promise of atomic development.

The University of Michigan, one of the nation's greatest and largest, and presently having the most extensive alumni organiza-

tion and widely distributed membership of any university, has picked up the gauntlet. It has assumed an important responsibility of leadership in getting the job done and will also join with private and public agencies in making atomic energy the servant and not the master of man.

To this end, the Board of Regents has approved the recommendation of the War Memorial Committee that a memorial be developed which will make a noted contribution to the well-being of mankind. The result is a plan to be known as The Phoenix Project—a project which symbolizes the conversion of the ravages of war into new life and hope.

THE PHOENIX PROJECT of the University of Michigan is planned as a continuing, *working* memorial of the men and women of the University who died in World War II. It befits the purpose: it will help accomplish at least one of the major jobs that winning the war gave us an opportunity to do. It is committed to become an important factor in peacetime atomic research for humanitarian purposes: out of the horrors of the atomic bomb the men and women of Michigan are determined to help create a force for good, perhaps one of historic proportions.

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THE PHOENIX PROJECT will consist of a memorial structure that will symbolize the task that is being undertaken to honor the memory of those who left the University to fight and die for their nation. There will be laboratories in which important and continuing work will be done. There will be a skillfully organized information exchange which will be at the service of the hundreds of specialists in various fields of medicine and science who are now or who will be working independently toward the objectives which, someday, we can reach. There will be facilities and meeting places for those who wish to help direct world thinking toward the development of all the peacetime benefits and potential benefits of atomic fission. In time, it is hoped that the sociological, historical, legal, philosophical and ideological aspects of an atomic era will be discussed here. In short, it will be an action-and-thought-center for the development of atomic promises.

THE PHOENIX PROJECT is a part of the University of Michigan, and it memorializes particularly a group of Michigan students; but it is a project for everyone who believes that Americans have a national responsibility to utilize history's greatest discovery for the *benefit* rather than for the *destruction* of mankind.

The 20,000 students of the University of Michigan and the 125,000 alumni have assumed the responsibility of raising the funds necessary to make this project a practical, functioning reality. They are planning a united drive for funds, definite plans for which will be announced at an early date. Inquiries concerning the University War Memorial should be addressed to the Phoenix Project, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

THE PHOENIX PROJECT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN - ANN ARBOR