

# Science Advisory Board

## 1925-1941

The National Research Council's Science Advisory Board (SAB) was created by an executive order issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in July 1933. The order authorized the SAB for a two- year period, during which time the NRC was granted the authority to appoint committees within the SAB to address scientific problems of the various government departments. Unlike the Research Council, which had come to be organized around specific fields of science and technology, the SAB's organization was explicitly designed around its relationship with the government. Accordingly, the SAB's first undertaking was a survey of the overall relationship between science and the government. After this and other initial successes, the SAB was expanded in size as decreed by an executive order of 1934.

By 1935 it was clear that, in an atmosphere colored by the constitutional questions raised by aspects of the New Deal, the SAB's status as an advisory body to the President made it vulnerable to political control. In addition, the SAB's anomalous position within the Academy organization itself precipitated a conflict of jurisdiction between the Academy and Research Council. For these reasons, it was decided that upon its expiration, the SAB should be superseded by a more broadly representative group reporting to the President of the NAS. Accordingly, an executive order of July 1935 extended the life of the SAB until the following December, at which time its functions were assumed by a newly reorganized NAS Committee on Government Relations which was itself dissolved in October 1939.

The Papers of the Science Advisory Board include the records of the NAS Committees on Government Relations and Naval Research. The collection contains correspondence, meeting minutes, and reports, and covers the years 1925-1941 for a span of 10 linear feet. The collection is arranged in two major series: Activity Records and Reports.

### Record Group 1: Activity Records

#### ADMINISTRATION

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Committees
  - Naval Research
    - Joint with Science Advisory Board
      - Possibilities for Scientific Services to Navy Dept: 1935
      - Projects
        - Research Conducted at Colleges & Universities: 1935-1936
        - Research Conducted at Laboratories of Industrial Corporations: 1935
    - Projects
      - Scientific Personnel for Naval Reserve
        - Nominations: 1936
      - Proposed: 1933
      - General: 1936
  - Relationships with War & Navy Depts: 1936-1941

- Government Relations & Science Advisory Committee: 1936
- Science Advisory Board
  - Appointments: Members
    - Executive Orders
      - 6725: 1934
      - 6238: 1933
    - Proposed: 1933-1934
  - Committees
    - Biological Abstracts: 1935
    - Boulder Dam Survey: 1933-1935
    - Bureau of Chemistry & Soils
      - Beginning of Program: 1934
      - Meetings: 1934-1935
      - General: 1934-1935
    - Bureau of Standards: 1933-1935
    - Design & Construction of Airships
      - Beginning of Program: 1935
      - Supporting Data: 1934-1935
      - General: 1935
    - Food & Drug Legislation Advisory to USDA
      - Proposed: 1933
    - Geological Survey & Bureau of Mines
      - Conservation of Mineral Resources: 1934
      - General: 1934-1935
    - Land Use
      - Conferences
        - Chicago: 1934
        - Washington DC: 1934
      - General: 1934
    - Mapping Services of Federal Government
      - Appointments: Members: 1934
      - Beginning of Program: 1934
      - Memoranda: 1934
      - Questionnaire: 1934
      - General: 1934
    - Medicine & Public Health: 1934-1935
    - New Industries: 1934
    - Policy of Government in Relation to Scientific Research: 1933-1934
    - Railway Research
      - Supporting Data: 1934
      - General: 1934
    - Relation between Fundamental Sciences & Scientific Study of Human Problems: 1933
    - Relation of Patent System to Stimulation of New Industries: 1934-1935
    - Signaling for Safety at Sea
      - Appointments: Members: 1935
      - Meetings

- Summary of Discussion: 1935
  - Transcript of Discussion: 1935
  - General: 1935
  - Soil Survey & Research: 1935
  - War & Navy Depts
    - Conference on Research: 1934
    - General: 1933-1935
  - Weather Bureau: 1933-1935
- Continuation of Board to December
  - Executive Order 7100: 1935
- Establishment
  - Events Leading to Issuance of Executive Order 6238: 1933
  - Executive Order 6239 Issued to NRC: 1933-1934
  - General: 1933
- Executive Committee
  - Meetings: 1933-1935
  - General: 1933-1935
- Meetings
  - Jun 1935
  - Mar 1935
  - Dec 1934
  - Nov 1934
  - Sep 1934
  - Apr 1934
  - Feb 1934
  - Jan 1934
  - Nov 1933
  - Sep 1933
  - Aug 1933
  - Minutes: Bound Compilation: 1933-1935
- Members: Listing: 1933-1935
- Program & Financial Problem: 1934
- Projects
  - Archaeological Surveys in Tennessee Valley: 1933
  - Consolidation of Mapping Services of US Government: 1933-1934
  - Consumers' Standards: 1933-1934
  - David W Taylor Model Basin: 1933-1934
  - Development of Research on Plant Pathology: 1934
  - Dues to International Scientific Unions: 1933-1934
  - Land-Grant Colleges: Survey: 1934-1935
  - National Program for Putting Science to Work for National Welfare: 1934-1935
  - Recovery Program of Science Progress: 1933
  - Scientific Work in British Government: 1934
  - Study of Occupational Standards: 1933
  - General: 1933-1935
- Relationship between NAS & NRC
  - Annual Report of NAS for 1920: Annotated by NAS President: 1934
  - Documents re Origin of Executive Order for NRC: 1934

- Relationship of SAB to NAS
  - Report: First: Request for Approval by NAS: 1934
  - General: 1934
- Report: Second
  - Comments & Criticisms: 1935
  - Publicity
    - Newspaper Articles: 1935
    - Press Releases: 1935
    - General: 1935
    - Request for Permission to Publish Government Agency Portions of Report: 1935
    - General: 1935
- Report: First
  - Distribution: 1934-1935
  - Publicity: 1934
  - General: 1934-1935
- Services of Division of Engineering & Industrial Research
  - Liaison between Dept of Commerce & National Recovery Administration: 1933-1935
  - General: 1933-1935
- Termination
  - Activities Transferred to NAS Government Relations & Science Advisory Committee: 1935
  - General: 1935
- General: 1933-1935

#### INSTITUTIONS – ASSOCIATIONS & INDIVIDUALS

- American Association for Advancement of Science: 1933-1934
- General: 1933-1935

#### ORGANIZATION: NAS

- Committee on Government Relations
  - Activities: Reports to NAS: 1929-1935
  - Appointments: Members: 1935
  - Beginning of Program: 1925-1926
  - Executive Committee: 1935
  - Meetings: 1926-1935
  - Name Change to Government Relations & Science Advisory Committee: 1935
  - Projects
    - Consideration of Report on Better Government Personnel: 1935
    - Role of Science in National Planning: 1934
  - Reorganization of Committee: 1935
  - Subcommittees
    - Biological Sciences: 1934-1935
    - Physical Sciences: 1934-1935
  - General: 1927-1935

- Council of the Academy
  - Executive Committee: Meetings: 1934
  - Meetings: 1934-1935
- Government Relations & Science Advisory Committee
  - Activities: Reports to NAS: 1936-1939
  - Appointments: Members: 1936-1939
  - Beginning of Program
    - US President's Announcement: 1935-1934
  - Committee on Army Air Corps Problems
    - Appointments: Members: 1938-1939
    - Beginning of Program: 1938
    - Projects
      - Development of Beryllium Alloys: 1938-1939
      - Development of True Plastic Materials for Aircraft Construction: 1939-1940
    - Subcommittees
      - De-icing: 1940-1941
      - Elimination of Rain & Snow Static on Aircraft: 1939-1940
      - Jet Auxiliary Power: 1938-1941
    - General: 1938-1941
  - Consideration of Requests
    - Congressional Bills on Scientific Research: 1937
    - Metallurgy Population & Technology: 1936-1937
    - Recalculation of Mathematical Tables
    - Reorganization of Executive Depts of Federal Government: 1936
  - End of Program: 1939
  - Executive Committee
    - Meetings: 1937-1938
      - Joint with National Resources Committee: 1936
      - Meetings: General: 1936
    - General: 1936-1939
  - Historical Sketch: 1936
  - Meetings: 1936-1939
  - Organization & Personnel: 1936-1939
  - Subcommittees
    - Biological Abstracts: 1936-1938
    - Bureau of Standards Relations: 1936-1938
    - Design & Construction of Airships
      - Supporting Data: 1936-1938
      - General: 1936-1939
    - Physical Types in American Population
      - Appointments: Members: 1936
      - General: 1936-1937
    - Policy
      - Federal Interest in Scientific Education & Research: 1937
    - Relation of Patent System to Stimulation of New Industries: 1936-1939
    - Ship Stabilization: 1936-1939

- Soil Conservation
      - Appointments: Members: 1936
      - Beginning of Program: 1936
      - Projects
        - Consideration of REA Report on Great Plains Drought Area: 1936-1937
        - Evaluation of Prospectus of Survey of Soil Conservation & Flood Control in Europe: 1938
      - Supporting Data: 1936
      - General: 1936-1938
    - Toxic Sprays
      - Appointments: Members: 1936-1938
      - Beginning of Program: 1936
      - Projects: Arsenic & Lead Toxicity: 1936-1937
      - Projects: Fluorine Toxicity: 1938
      - General: 1936-1937
    - War & Navy Depts: 1936-1939
    - Weather Bureau: 1936-1939
      - General: 1936-1939
  - Meetings
    - Annual: 1936
    - Annual: 1933
    - Autumn: 1933
  - Requests to NAS to Intercede re Reduction of Funds for Federal Scientific Research: 1933
  - Science Advisory Committee: 1933

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Inaugurations Ceremonies Speeches
  - Sigma Xi: "Government's Responsibilities in Science": Compton K: 1935
- Magazine Articles on Science
  - Government Relations & Science Advisory Committee: 1936
  - Science Advisory Board: 1933-1935
- Newspaper Articles on Science
  - Government Relations & Science Advisory Committee: 1936-1938
  - Science Advisory Board: 1933-1935

## PUBLICATIONS

- Geographical Review
  - Geography & National Land Planning: 1935
- General: 1933-1935

## DIVISIONS OF THE NRC

## ENGINEERING & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

- Meetings: Symposium on Decentralization of Industry: 1933
- General: 1933

## FINANCE & ACCOUNTING

### ACCOUNTING

- Auditor's Report: Science Advisory Board: 1934-1935
- Reimbursement to NAS from Government
  - Committee on Army Air Corps Problems: 1939-1941
  - Subcommittee
    - Design & Construction of Airships: 1936-1941
    - Ship Stabilization: 1936-1941
- General: 1933-1946

### CONTRACTS

- NOd-790: Subcommittee on Ship Stabilization: 1936-1939
- NOd-655
  - Committee on Design & Construction of Airships: 1935
  - Subcommittee on Design & Construction of Airships: 1936-1941
- W 535 ac-15690: Committee on Army Air Corps Problems: 1940-1941
- W 535 ac-13087: Committee on Army Air Corps Problems: 1939
- W 535 ac-11707: Committee on Army Air Corps Problems: 1938

### FINANCE

- Funds
  - Grants: Science Advisory Board: 1933-1935

## GOVERNMENT

### AGENCIES & DEPARTMENTS

- Agriculture
  - Agriculture Adjustment Administration: 1934
  - Bureau of Chemistry: 1933
  - Food & Drug Administration: 1930-1934
  - Weather Bureau: 1933-1935
  - General: 1933-1938
- Board of Surveys & Maps of Federal Government: 1934-1935
- Commerce
  - Business Advisory & Planning Council: 1933-1934
  - General: 1933-1934
- Emergency Conservation Work
  - Civilian Conservation Corps: Press Releases: 1933-1934

- General: 1933
- Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works
  - National Planning Board: 1933-1934
  - Press Releases: 1934-1935
- Federal Emergency Relief Administration: 1933-1934
- Interdepartmental Committee on Aerial Photography & Mapping: 1933-1934
- Interior
  - Soil Erosion Service: 1933-1934
  - General: 1933-1935
- Interstate Commerce Commission: Regulation of Railroads
  - Reports
    - Congress: 1934
    - US President: 1934
- National Recovery Administration
  - Consumers' Advisory Board: 1933-1934
  - Industrial Advisory Board: Codes: 1933-1934
- National Resources Board
  - National Land Planning Activities: 1934
  - Science Committee: 1935
  - General: 1934-1935
- National Resources Committee
  - Committees
    - Population Problems: 1936
    - Study of Problems in Field of Technology: 1936-1937
  - Science Committees
    - NAS Representatives: 1935-1937
    - Subcommittee on Survey of Governmental Relations to Research: 1937-1939
    - General: 1935-1939
  - General: 1935-1939
- Navy
  - Committee on Naval Research: Liaison w NRC: 1933-1935
  - General: 1933-1935
- Planning Committee for Mineral Policy: 1934-1935
- Tennessee Valley Authority
  - Press Releases: 1933-1934
  - General: 1933-1934
- Treasury:
  - Bureau of Budget: 1933-1934
  - General: 1933-1935
- War: 1933-1934
  - Army Air Corps: 1938-1941
- General: 1933-1937

## CONGRESS

- Acts: Appropriations
  - Dept of Agriculture & Farm Credit Administration: 1934-1937

- Acts
  - Research into Basic Laws & Principles Relating to Agriculture & Further Development of Agriculture Extension Work & Land-Grant Colleges: 1935-1936
  - General: 1935
- Bills: 1936-1940
  - Establishment of National Planning Board: 1935
  - Food Drugs & Cosmetics: 1933-1935
  - Research into Basic Laws & Principles Relating to Agriculture & Further Development of Agriculture Extension Work & Land-Grant Colleges: 1935
  - General: 1934-1935
- Committees
  - Agriculture: Hearings: 1935
  - Agriculture & Forestry: Hearing: 1935
  - Commerce: Hearings: 1935
- Resolutions
  - Curtailment of Activities in Connection with Scientific Research: 1933
- General: 1937

#### EXECUTIVE

- Executive Depts: Reorganization: 1937
- Executive Orders & Directives
  - EO 7100: Science Advisory Board: Extension of Board's Life: 1935
  - EO 6725: Science Advisory Board: Appointment of Additional Members: 1934
  - EO 6238: Science Advisory Board: Establishment: 1933
  - Samples of Executive Orders for Science Advisory Board: 1918-1933
- National Resources Planning Board
  - Science Committee: NAS Representatives: 1939
  - General: 1939
- General: 1933-1939

### **Record Group 2: Reports**

#### ADMINISTRATION

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Science Advisory Board
  - Committee on Biological Abstracts
    - Report to Board: 1935
  - Committee on Boulder Dam Survey
    - Possibilities of Developing Mineral Industries Tributary to Boulder Dam: 1934
  - Committee on Bureau of Chemistry & Soils
    - Relationship of Bureau of Chemistry & Soils to other Bureaus in Dept of Agriculture: 1935
    - Soil Erosion
      - Final: 1935

- Preliminary: 1934
- Committee on Geological Survey & Bureau of Mines
  - Reports
    - Secretary of Interior on Bureau of Mines: 1933
    - Secretary of Interior on Consolidation of Geological Survey & Bureau of Mines: 1933
    - Secretary of Interior on Geological Survey: 1933
    - Secretary of Interior on Mineral Statistics & Economics: Preliminary: 1933
- Committee on Land Use
  - Land Resources & Land Use in Relation to Public Policy: 1934
  - Soil Erosion: Preliminary Recommendations: 1934
- Committee on Mapping Services of Federal Government
  - Report to Board: 1934
- Committee on Medicine & Public Health
  - Report to Secretary of Treasury: 1935
- Committee on Railway Research
  - Report to Federal Coordinator of Transportation: 1934
  - Subcommittee on Facilities for Research: 1934
- Committee on Relation of Patent System to Stimulation of New Industries
  - Report to Secretary of Commerce: 1935
- Committee on Weather Bureau
  - Report to Secretary of Agriculture: 1935
- Land-Grant Colleges Survey
  - Report to Board: 1935
- National Program for Putting Science to Work for National Welfare
  - Report to US President: 1935
- Put Science to Work
  - National Program: Compton K: 1934
- Recovery Program for Science Progress
  - Compton K: 1933
- Report to US President
  - Second: Sep 1935
  - First: Sep 1934

#### ORGANIZATION: NAS

- Committee on Government Relations
  - Role of Science in National Planning: 1934
- Government Relations & Science Advisory Committee: Committee on Army Air Corps Problems
  - Subcommittees
    - De-Icing: 1940-1941
    - Jet Auxiliary Power: 1938-1941
- Government Relations & Science Advisory Committee
  - Subcommittees
    - Design & Construction of Airships: 1936-1937
    - Physical Types in American Population: 1937

- Ship Stabilization: 1937-1940
- Toxic Sprays: 1937
- Weather Bureau: 1938

## GOVERNMENT

### AGENCIES & DEPARTMENTS

- Agriculture: Bureau of Chemistry & Soils
  - Report to Chief of Bureau to Secretary of Agriculture: 1933
- Agriculture: Forest Service
  - Soil Erosion & Reforestation in Italy: 1943
  - Secretary of Agriculture: Report to Congress on Elixir Sulfanilamide: 1937
- Central Statistical Board
  - Annual Report: 1st: 1934
- Commerce: Business Advisory & Planning Council
  - Committee on Bureau of Standards: 1934
  - Subcommittee on Mineral Services: 1933
- Interior
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs: 1933
  - Bureau of Reclamation: 1934
- National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics
  - Annual Report: 19th: 1933
- National Resources Board
  - National Planning & Public Works in Relation to Natural Resources: 1934
- Treasury
  - Public Health Service: 1937
- War: Office Chief of Engineers
  - Mississippi River Commission: Report: 1932

### CONGRESS

- Committees: Commerce
  - Safety in Air: Report: 1936-1937