

Exit
SST

~~The~~
 Scientists are often ^{accused -} ~~described~~ together
 with engineers - of ~~the~~ wanting to do
 things just because they can be done -
~~building~~ atom bomb, rockets, ~~sat~~ ~~was~~
 space ships, submarines & good things or
 bad things ~~for~~ mankind. - They cannot
 resist ^a ~~the~~ diabolical urge. do they anything
 that looks ~~like~~ doable. Most ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~more~~
 human men must watch over ^{scientists} ~~them~~ to
 keep them from ~~at~~ indulging in ~~these~~
~~these~~ ~~uses~~ and inflicting terrible
 damage on mankind by indulging in ~~these~~
 uses..

~~The Bulletin~~ ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{the} voice of the
 scientific community, The Bulletin
~~must~~ ~~not~~ ~~protest~~ ~~against~~ ~~must~~ ~~indignantly~~ ~~deny~~ ~~reluct~~
 this ~~calumny~~ upon the ^{scientists} ~~scientific~~ ^{spirit} ~~spirit~~ ^{and}
 that ~~moves~~ the scientific program

and I dare to assert that it is ~~not~~ ^{it is ~~not~~} ~~not~~ ^{also} ~~only~~ ^{also} in respect to the spirit
of Engineering profession.

Of course, there are ~~scoundrels~~ ^{scoundrels} (and
Engineers) - we ~~can~~ ^{could} easily name such - who out
of their political ~~beliefs~~ ^{convictions}, believe in the
need to ~~abuse~~ ^{abuse} their nation, with ~~all~~ ^{any} ~~any~~
weapons ~~any~~ other nations may ~~build~~ ^{build}; or
assume for their nation the leadership in
all ~~types~~ ^{types} of technological programs. I ~~gain~~ ^{gain} say
that ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~relative~~ ^{relative} numbers of individuals
who think so is smaller among ~~scoundrels~~
than among the public at large, not to
speak of professional politicians. There are
also engineers (and ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ some ~~scoundrels~~ ^{scoundrels}, too)
whose ~~jobs~~ ^{jobs} ~~depend~~ ^{depend} on ~~continuation~~ ^{continuation} of
certain technological projects and who share
with labor and entrepreneurship whose livelihood
depends on ~~such~~ ^{such} ~~projects~~ ^{projects}, a vested interest
in their ~~continuation~~ ^{continuation}.

~~This~~ This is human, but has nothing to do with the supposed ~~diabolical~~ ^{heedless diabolical} ~~drive to~~ dedication to technology for technology's sake.

One

Science is something else. It is dominated by the urge to understand ^{the world and work}, not by the urge to build new things. And scientists used to believe - and many of them still believe - that this urge is fundamentally good and that no obstacles should be put in its way. This belief has been put to a hard test when the scientific discovery of nuclear fission rapidly led to the engineering achievement of nuclear explosives. Now, most scientists are likely to admit that society may be constrained, by prudence, to close certain avenues of research until such time when discoveries in these fields may ~~prove~~ lead to disastrous engineering consequences. But other scientists, who in devices to ~~damage~~ inflict damage on mankind, would agree that barriers should be put not ^{on the way to} before ~~exploring~~ the truth, but on the way to dangerous applications of the acquired knowledge.