Top Military Setup Must Be Overhauled, Vannevar Bush Says

Dangerous Weaknesses, Confusion Must Go, Atom Scientist Warns

By the Associated Press

ROCHESTER, Minn., Sept. 27.— Dr. Vannevar Bush is calling for a complete overhaul of the Nation's military planning and command functions at the top level.

Dr. Bush, president of Carnegie Institution, Washington, and a top atomic scientist, said such a reorganization is necessary to eliminate "confusion and dangerous weaknesses."

"Operating under an imperfect military unification act, it is remarkable that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have accomplished anything whatever," Dr. Bush told an audience at dedication ceremonies for the new Medical Sciences Building at the Mayo Clinic here last night.

Congress' Feeling Cited.

"There is a feeling in Congress," said Dr. Bush, "that it must interfere in plans of the Joint Chiefs of Staff because plans are not being well formulated and executed.

"Certainly there is basis for this feeling at times. But the cure lies, not in interference, but in reorganizing the machinery to produce results."

Dr. Bush, head of the National Defense Research Committee during World War II, said his criticism was directed at the framework under which military leadership functions rather than at any group or political party.

Calls For Legislation.

"In the fear of concentrating power, Congress left ambiguity in regard to lines of command," Dr. Bush said. By way of correctives, he urged legislation that would:

Establish the Joint Chiefs of Staff as a planning agency only. Clarify the fact that military command and control rest with the President and Secretary of Defense, and

Encourage the unhampered work of military men of flexible thinking, capable of keeping abreast of new developments and research in weapons.

Dr. Bush pointed out that it was a question how long good works, such as the new Mayo Research Center, could endure because:

"All this country's plans are dependent upon the success of one greater plan, our military plan for defense—for avoiding a great war if possible and surviving it, if it comes."