

any advance in education after the War would be impossible without a proper supply of teachers, and that the proposed call-up would paralyse the whole educational scheme of the country.

Mr. McCordale, Parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of Labour, replying to the debate, said that the medical schools would decide on the basis of the first examinations which students would be granted deferment. Scientific students would be recommended for deferment by the University Joint Recruiting Boards. The Minister of Labour had decided that he could no longer allow boys whose medical grade was sufficiently high to make them liable to serve to go up to the university to take an arts course for one year. This decision would entail the closing down at the end of the summer of the present year's university arts course with the exception of those who were medically unfit for the Services. As to the question of mathematics, if a scientific student persuaded the Recruiting Board that his course was in the interest of the prosecution of the War, he would get facilities for carrying it through. The Bill was read a third time.

### Radio Research for the Services

MR. LYTTELTON, Minister of Production, said in the House of Commons on December 9, that in view of the great increase in the importance of wireless communication and radio-location during the War, the Government has set up a Radio Board as the co-ordinating body in regard to inter-Service policy, research, development and production. The Board is in general responsible to the Minister of Production, but where matters of service policy are concerned it takes its instruction from, and is responsible to, the Chiefs of Staff Committee. The Minister Resident for Supply in Washington (Colonel Llewellyn) acted in his personal capacity as the first chairman of the Board. On his appointment to Washington he was succeeded by the Minister of Aircraft Production, Sir Stafford Cripps, also in his personal capacity. The chairman is assisted by two deputy chairmen, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Supply (Mr. Garro-Jones) and Prof. G. P. Thomson. The membership of the Board includes representatives of the Admiralty, War Office, Air Ministry, Ministry of Supply, Ministry of Aircraft Production, and General Post Office, as well as several special non-departmental members. Much of the work of the Board is carried out through two main working committees, the Production Planning and Personnel Radio Committee and the Operations and Technical Radio Committee, of which Mr. Garro-Jones and Prof. Thomson are respectively chairmen.

### New Light Day Bomber for the R.A.F.

RECENT reports of a day raid upon Eindhoven, Holland, mention for the first time the use of the Lockheed Ventura I. The R.A.F. type is presumably a development of the American machine, originally known as Lockheed Vega 27. This model is powered by two 2,000 h.p. Pratt and Whitney Wasp 18-cylinder radial engines, and has a speed of 275 miles per hour, with a range of 1,500 miles. It carries a crew of four or five, as necessary, and has armament of two movable and two fixed guns in the nose, a Boulton and Paul gun turret on the top of the body, and two movable guns underneath. It is probable that the improved version is superior to this in both performance and armament. The most significant

point about the aircraft is that it is a further step towards completing a range of high-performance bombers and fighters that, in total, form a team for heavy day bombing, working upon the theory of smothering the defence when attacking. The Boeing Fortresses operate at great heights, Liberators at a little less, with Venturas, Mustangs and Mosquitoes lower down, even to ground-level. The high speeds and good manoeuvrability of these machines make them able to take reasonable evasive action when attacked by anti-aircraft fire, their performance is comparable with British fighters, simplifying the question of their being escorted, and even unescorted their armament and manoeuvrability allow them to put up a good defence against enemy attacking fighters.

### Recruitment of the Civil Service

THE sixteenth report of the Select Committee on National Expenditure, in a section dealing with the recruitment of the Civil Service, includes some account of the Appointments Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, created on March 1, 1942, in which the old Central and Supplementary Registers have been merged, which should be of interest to scientific workers. As a recruiting agency the Ministry's organization now also includes the Temporary Government Service Registers and the Central Register of Aliens, and in regard to the latter, the report recommends that a much more vigorous attempt should be made to keep the Central Register up to date and to find suitable employment for the persons whose names it contains. Reviewing the operation of the Central (Scientific and Technical) Register, the report comments on the relatively slight use made of this Register by industrial firms as compared with Government departments. In regard to engineering appointments, the Committee recommends that academic qualifications should not be allowed to overshadow the less easily assessable but great practical value of men who have graduated through the workshops to management level. It is also recommended that to meet the shortage of persons of managerial capacity, the Ministry of Labour should make a careful search for persons who might be up-graded above the level of their present employment.

The importance is stressed of the Ministry preparing in good time for the difficult post-war task of placing in civil employment the large numbers of men and women demobilized from the Armed Forces, and attention is also directed to the importance, as a means of remedying the shortage of technically qualified recruits in Government departments—and the remark applies equally to industry—of ensuring the most economical use of such persons after appointment. This involves a careful watch on the changing conditions of industry from the point of view of the technical help and supervision needed from the Supply departments. The report also includes a memorandum by Sir James Rae on the professional and technical staffs in Government departments which describes the work of the assessors appointed early last year. This review covers the elimination of functions not essential to the prosecution of the War, the elimination, following if necessary a relaxation of normal peace-time standards, of all work now entrusted to professionally and technically qualified staff which is not absolutely necessary for the discharge of those functions, reduction to a minimum of checking and