

bringing more of the good things this country can offer to all people, but this does not negate the fact that we are experiencing continued economic growth; employment is increasing; personal income is rising; and millions more Americans are able to own their homes.

I am not citing these things to encourage self-righteousness or complacency, only to discourage some of the debilitating negativism so prevalent today. The point is that, having become aware of our problems, we must not become obsessed by them. We must seek and support positive solutions. If, as I have mentioned before, we have discovered that some advances in science and technology have produced certain undesirable side effects that could grow intolerable, why not think in terms of using other aspects of these great tools to reduce and eventually eliminate those undesirable effects? In a few minutes I will give you some specific examples of this positive approach.

Today it is essential that we encourage new directions and new dimensions to our thinking and our actions. We have to break down many of our ingrained prejudices, old habits, and traditional attitudes and achieve a new degree of flexibility, imagination, and innovation. There is no doubt that we will have to do this "on the run" so to speak. Unfortunately, we cannot call a "time out" between now and the year 2000. Therefore we must learn to gain and maintain public understanding and support of positive programs. We must learn to overcome new obstacles that arise, because even in the best-made plans there are flaws, and we may often find ourselves having to make changes to take advantage of new innovations; to shift emphasis, and to readjust timetables and goals. But not to choose goals, not to plan, and not to act now for fear of making the wrong moves could be far more disastrous.

Before relating all this to the role of the atom and what it might contribute specifically to our goals for the year 2000, I want to make two last points concerning the combined role of science and technology in general. They are points that I believe should be stressed because they can give us cause for optimism and reason to be positive at this time when, as I have stated, so much pessimism and negativism seem to abound.

The first is that science can dramatically affect our way of thinking, with regard specifically to scientific matters and generally to other aspects of life. Over 100 years ago Clerk Maxwell alluded to this when he said: "Experimental science is continually revealing to us new