

Problems of the Atomic Era

If I have made myself clear with respect to the problems of the atomic era with which we are now faced, it will be apparent that they are primarily political problems affecting the relations between men and governments. Fundamentally they are a part of the age old conflict between good and evil. As such their ultimate solution will be found only in the realm of philosophy and morals. One thing is certain: they admit of no mechanistic solution. By themselves, devices for the control of atomic energy are at best but temporary expedients. For this reason, I believe, it is an error to contemplate the control of the use of atomic energy in commodity and police terms, as if atomic energy were some new and dangerous drug. Technical scientific controls of production, processing and final disposition are indispensable, but they are obviously inadequate. It would, I believe, be criminal folly to allow ourselves to imagine that the peace and security of mankind can be attained by any scheme of commodity control.

As political problems affecting the relations of governments, the solution of the problems presented by atomic energy must be sought in the realm of world politics. The more deeply one ponders the problems with which our world