

# Dr. Spedding Heads ISC Research on Atomic Bomb and Worries About Weeds In Victory Garden in Spare Time

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A Canadian-born, mountain-climbing chemist, who admits his victory garden suffered because of some atoms, directed the Iowa State end of the research and development of the atomic bomb.

He is Dr. Frank H. Spedding, of 1253 Orchard Drive. Dr. Spedding, 42 years old, came to Iowa State in 1937.

We interviewed Dr. Spedding this morning after passing the scrutiny of a guard who opened a barred door in the ISC chemistry building in answer to our ring.

The conversation, on Dr. Spedding's part, consisted largely of "this is off the record," or "I can't tell you about that," but from it we gathered the general idea that the atomic bomb, first announced yesterday, is not made by inserting a fuse in an atom. And it's not, we suppose, set off by lighting a fuse and then leaving the scene as quickly as possible.

Much of the work done at Iowa State still is shrouded in the same secrecy which has prevailed since the work began here sometime after Pearl Harbor.

Some things, however, Dr. Spedding could make clear. Among them are:

1. there never was at any time any danger to the city of Ames from the work done at the plant here.

2. Dr. Spedding is mighty proud of the ability of his men to keep a secret.

3. The atomic bomb is a mighty gosh-awful weapon but Dr. Spedding believes that the force involved will be turned to industrial use and can benefit mankind.

Among the facts still on the secret list are the number of workers employed here, who was employed here, the materials worked with.

"We were part of a team," Dr. Spedding said.

The force involved in the atomic bomb comes from a changing

received his BS and MS degrees at Michigan university and his Ph. D. at California university.

In 1933, he was awarded the \$1,000 Langmuir award, presented annually at that time to the chemist under 31 years of age who had done the most outstanding bit of research in pure chemistry.

In 1934-35, Dr. Spedding toured the world on a Guggenheim award, stopping off, incidentally, at Japan and Germany.

While the plant for a long time worked seven days a week 24 hours a day, the time now has come for some vacations. Dr. and Mrs. Spedding recently returned to Ames from an outing in Estes Park, Colo. When Dr. Spedding gets tired of fooling with atoms, he has an urge to climb a mountain.

The work here, a race against time, had its amusing spots. Dr. Spedding said, in telling the story of one of the researchers who developed a stock answer to the now-and-then queries as to what went on at the local plant.

The worker told his girl friends that work was being done on nylon stockings.

"He had plenty of girl friends after that," Dr. Spedding added.

In addition to his mountain-climbing, Dr. Spedding also has a victory garden but expresses the fear that it may have a few, too many weeds in it.

In fact, it wouldn't be too surprising to see a sign posted on the garden saying:

"Please excuse weeds.  
Working on atomic bomb."