

	
George Ellery Hale	Senator and Secretary of State Elihu Root

George Ellery Hale was the director of the Mount Wilson observatory and believed that only the National Academy could properly represent American science in international assemblies and unions. He abhorred scientific provincialism and wanted American science to assume leadership in cooperative, international science.

His proposals for reforming the National Academy of Science had two objectives: Hale wanted not only to revive the National Academy and to advance science professionally, but also to create a national science. National science for Hale had several related connotations. It meant, first, the centralized organization of scientific activity along interdisciplinary lines on the national level. National science also meant the elevation of science to a prominent influence in American culture. For Hale, such influence was symbolized by the official prestige of the European national academies.

Both the organizational objective and the cultural objective of the National Academy reform proposals were clearly revealed in Hale's letters from 1912 to 1914 to Sen. Elihu Root and Andrew Carnegie. Hale had been acquainted with Root since the early 1900s when both became attached to the Carnegie Institution, Root as a trustee and Hale as director of the Mount Wilson Observatory. Root was to emerge as one of Hale's most valued and beloved advisers.

The American Ideology of National Science, 1919-1930 (24-25)