

The Yellin Case

A recent editorial, "One in eighteen thousand" [*Science*, 133, 2037 (1961)], begins with the words: "For many scientific purposes an event that happens only once in ten or twenty thousand tries is statistically insignificant. . . . But in other cases, the focus of interest may be on the unusual event itself. . . ." That editorial represents for me just such an unusual event, since it is the first time that I have found an idea proposed by an editor of *Science* so

repugnant and outrageous as to compel me to express myself in the form of a "letter to the editor."

I refer, of course, to the suggestion that: "To minimize the chance that so rare an event [the Edward Yellin case] will occur again the [National Science] Foundation need only include on its application form a question about the criminal record of the candidate."

I do not know what proportion of the members of the scientific community have criminal records, but I would guess that such individuals must

be rare, indeed. Furthermore, to my knowledge, there is no evidence whatsoever that such persons, as a group, have demonstrated any lack of scientific ability, even if that term is interpreted to include such qualifications as "motivation, independence, objective judgment, accuracy, and integrity" in their scientific endeavors.

On the other hand, the National Science Foundation, and all other granting agencies, recognize that some small percentage of funds granted for scientific investigations is used illegally by scientific charlatans for their own furtherance or aggrandizement. Again however, there is no correlation, to my knowledge, between that group of persons engaging in such unfortunate activities, and the hypothetical group of investigators with previous criminal histories. Until such a significant, positive correlation has been demonstrated, it seems to me that the editor's suggestion is, at the very least, irrelevant.

Irrelevance is a sufficient reason not to accept a suggestion. However, I do not find this idea repugnant primarily because it is irrelevant, but because it is one more manifestation of a trend in present-day society to suggest, and sometimes even to accept, protestations and oaths of loyalty, purity, and moral righteousness in place of such qualities as capability, originality, and creative thought.

ROBERT L. DEHAAN

3003 North Calvert Street,
Baltimore, Maryland

Your proposal in the editorial, "One in eighteen thousand," that National Science Foundation fellowship application forms include a question concerning the candidate's record of criminal convictions is reasonable enough, but it fails to touch on the central issue raised by the Yellin case—freedom of the individual conscience and the privacy of ideas.

National Science Foundation officials would not have had to face the stern inquisitors of the House Un-American Activities Committee if they had awarded a fellowship to an individual previously convicted of the common crime of embezzlement or bigamy. Yellin's offense was to invite an indictment for contempt of Congress by refusing to answer the House Un-American Activities Committee's questions about his past political associations on the grounds that this committee's investigation was an encroach-

PICK A VOLUME SET THE PLUNGER TILT AND POUR

Scientists have been quick to accept tilting dispensers because they offer speed and convenience. Now here's a new dispenser with versatility and which saves you money, too!

Versatility because Kontes K-75920 dispensers have an exclusive adjustable plunger in the chambers, permitting a range of volumes from each chamber. It saves you money because you need buy only one to get a wide range of volumes.


K-75920 Dispenser, Tilting

	SIZE		
	A	B	C
Range, ml.	0-3.4	0-15	0-27
Reproducibility, ml.	±0.05	±0.25	±0.25
Each	\$24.50	\$29.50	\$36.25

These products and approximately 200 others are completely described in a new Bulletin—TC-4. Write for your free copy.

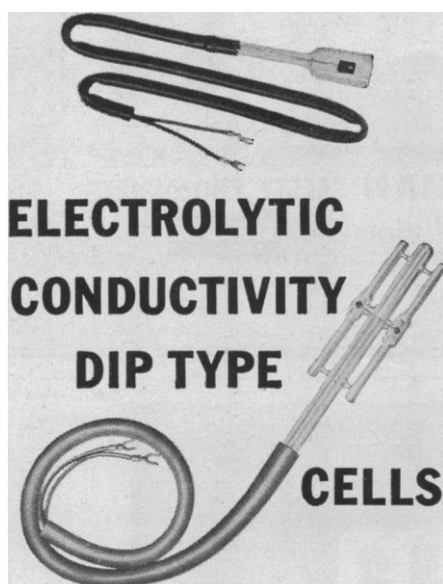
(Patent applied for)
*Viton is a Du Pont Trademark.

KONTES GLASS COMPANY
Vineland, New Jersey



Set and adjust volumes with movable plunger. Viton® "O" Ring holds plunger in position.





Every Laboratory Conductivity Cell now a certified cell at no extra cost!

You can now obtain from Industrial Instruments a dip type glass and platinum electrolytic conductivity cell in any cell constant from 1/100 to 100 with certified accuracy within $\pm 1\%$ of nominal value.

Write for a complete catalog of conductivity cells and measuring instruments and equipment.



ment of his constitutional rights of free speech and assembly guaranteed by the First Amendment. Yellin could easily have avoided serious difficulty with the committee and the citation for contempt by refusing to cooperate with the committee as hundreds of others have done in recent years by standing on the Fifth Amendment.

Yellin's challenge of the committee's right to probe the political beliefs of our citizens was undertaken with the clear knowledge that this action could result in his imprisonment. His decision to undergo this risk is in the highest traditions of our nation. It was awareness of this, I am sure, that helped Yellin win his reinstatement as a student after a hearing by the investigating committee of the University of Illinois.

Several years ago, an application for financial support of a research project on leukemia was rejected by an agency of the Public Health Service because the principal investigator, Linus Pauling, had failed to obtain the necessary political clearance. Public opposition to this unwarranted interference in research now makes it unnecessary for an investigator to undergo political screening to obtain a federal grant for a project in the health sciences.

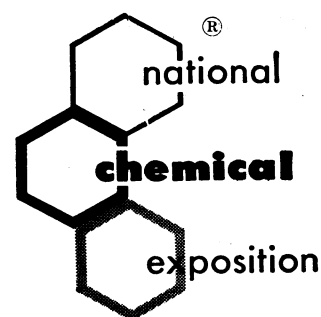
Protection of freedom of thought is particularly important to us as scientists. It would be harmful to all of us if political clearance became a necessary condition to obtaining a federally supported fellowship.

MONROE SCHNEIDER
*Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital,
Brooklyn, New York*

Krebiozen

We read with interest your notes on the Krebiozen trial [*Science* 133, 1345 (1961)], which included reference to the Citizens Emergency Committee for Krebiozen.

If any further proof were required as to the validity of your statement that "professional sentiment in the field is overwhelmingly against Krebiozen," it is furnished by your most liberal application of the noun *scientist* to George D. Stoddard in connection with his criticism of the work of Andrew C. Ivy. Indeed, a large question involved in the litigation of Ivy versus Stoddard is that of freedom of research and inquiry in America. But to imply that a "scientist" in the field of education is qualified to criticize the work



The 11th

NATIONAL CHEMICAL EXPOSITION

will be held in the

CHICAGO AMPHITHEATRE
SEPTEMBER 5-8, 1961

at the time of the 140th
national meeting of the

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Everything that's new in the chemical process industries,—chemicals, equipment, apparatus, services—plus a series of outstanding special exhibits, the Trail Blazers of Chemistry, Art and Photographic Exhibits by chemists, etc.

PLAN TO ATTEND!

For information about booth space available, and for entry forms and admission tickets, write

National Chemical Exposition

Chicago Section ACS

86 E. Randolph St., Chicago 1, Ill.

FRanklin 2-1123