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sites and for this reason are restricted to naturally irrigated areas of the desert. However, the present study shows that several shrubs of dry washes can become established in abundance on *the more xeric upland portions of an alluvial fan when the competition of the dominant upland shrubs is largely removed.* Obviously, these pioneer plants of the desert play a role similar to that of successional plants of more humid regions." This does not necessarily imply that Egler has edited to alter meaning, but as a "psychological twist," it appears to have been overlooked by perennial critic Egler in his survey of the ecological literature.

The evidence presented in my report is at variance with the "auto-successional" views of Shreve, as well as with his related views on climax vegetation. The latter were distorted by the typographical error, but, thanks to Egler, now stand corrected.

PHILIP V. WELLS
*New Mexico Highlands University,
 Las Vegas*

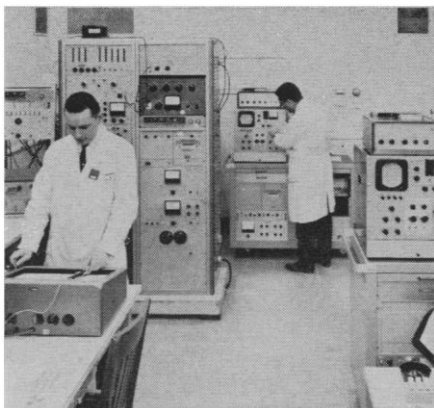
The Cunningham Amendment

Your recent editorial [*Science* 135, 877 (1962)] commented on the terms of the "Cunningham amendment" to the postal rate bill, an amendment to end free or subsidized delivery of Communist propaganda by the Post Office. As the author of the amendment, I would appreciate the opportunity to add several facts for the benefit of your readers, many of whom may have a desire and need for certain Russian or other Communist bloc publications. These might include outright propaganda, daily papers, magazines of general interest, and scientific journals or papers.

There is no intention on my part, as I have often said, to deny to any American any material he needs or wants to receive. I do not believe it would be possible or practical to bar Communist propaganda from the country, but I do believe that the vast majority of Americans are in favor of ending the subsidy given Communist propaganda, especially at this time when American postal rates are almost certain to be increased.

Accordingly, the House of Representatives felt it was time to take cognizance of the fact that the Russians and other Communist governments have long violated the reciprocal

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terms of the Universal Postal Union, an international mail-forwarding agreement which dates to 1874. There is ample evidence that U.S. mail sent behind the Iron Curtain is censored, stopped, destroyed, or "lost," depending on the content. These procedures are all in violation of UPU agreements, yet this country has not seen fit to retaliate by stopping mail delivery from these countries, as we have every right to do under the UPU. The amendment adopted by the House would be merely a first step in this process.

Because some of your readers may wish to receive outright Communist propaganda or material which contains Communist propaganda, I would point out that under my amendment such material may be received into this country by freight or air freight, then sent to its destination (whether individual, library, government office, or newsstand) via parcel post, freight or air freight, messenger service, delivery route, or any other means that does not involve the use of first-class, second-class, or third-class mail.

It may also be possible for material to bear both foreign stamps and U. S. stamps for parcel post rates and be carried via postal systems from the point of foreign origin to the destination in the United States. A similar UPU arrangement has been put into effect in regard to certain international mail which is considered third-class advertising in this country.

Although some persons (apparently through a lack of knowledge of present procedures) have said that the Cunningham amendment would require vast new inspection programs, the truth is that suspect foreign and domestic mail is already inspected to weed out pornography, matter advocating the violent overthrow of the government, material which contains fraudulent claims, and so on.

GLENN CUNNINGHAM

*United States House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.*

Lemurs Born in Captivity

The picture of the baby lemur on the cover of *Science* [135 (13 Apr. 1962)] was very interesting. The news that baby animals are being born and successfully reared in captivity is always very exciting.

The caption for the cover picture states that the baby lemur was born at

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