

of some of us who are deeply concerned with efforts to secure immediate acceptance of plans and programs that we recognize as of significance to the national economy. But I have no apologies to offer for—nor any intention to reverse—a long-standing Survey policy of presenting and defending our programs on the basis of their content and inherent importance. I'm sure that Greenberg did not intend to imply the use of some sort of chicanery to secure adoption of worthy research proposals; I think our own record since 1879 contravenes this.

THOMAS B. NOLAN
U.S. Geological Survey,
Washington, D.C.

On Withholding Information

The letter from P. D. Wall [*Science* 136, 173 (13 Apr. 1962)] stating that he refused information to the CIA concerning the status of foreign work in the field of neurophysiology has some shocking implications. Surely our total scientific know-how is becoming, quite properly, a major national resource. Our very heavy federal support of university research, and hence indirectly of universities themselves, is based ultimately on the faith that a strong scientific base means a stronger and healthier country. How then can any reputable scientist refuse to provide technical information on the state of his field to any government agency—the CIA or the National Bureau of Standards—which in its judgment would find such information helpful?

Wall states that his cooperation with a government agency might limit his freedom of discussion with foreign colleagues, or make them view him as a "government agent." Now surely no foreign scientist would exchange technical information with an American with the understanding that such information would be withheld, if requested, from a branch of the U.S. government! What a terribly embarrassing position in which to place a colleague! Further, if responding to any request for assistance by a government agency makes someone a government agent, then every citizen of the U.S. is an "agent" on call.

I feel that Wall is confusing a legitimate concern over possible security restrictions on his activities with the obligation that every citizen has to assist his government when called upon. There are recognized exceptions, such as

practicing pacifists in time of war, but that is another argument and is not the main theme of Wall's letter. The complete cooperation of scientists in making available their technical knowledge to a branch of the U.S. government under reasonable conditions does not seem to endanger academic freedom.

HERBERT I. FUSFELD
Research and Development Division,
American Machine and Foundry
Company, Springfield, Connecticut

Patrick Wall's noble response to the indignity of being confronted by an agent of the CIA is worthy of study by us all.

After all, a member of a university faculty is not merely an impersonal storage bin for odd lots of information. He holds a sacred trust to release this information only to his peers or to students whose tuition payments are not in arrears. He has an obligation to demand payment by others: money from industry and equivalent information from government detailing the use to be made of his own information. Some "unfortunate agencies" of the U.S. Government deserve nothing at all if he doesn't approve of their activities.

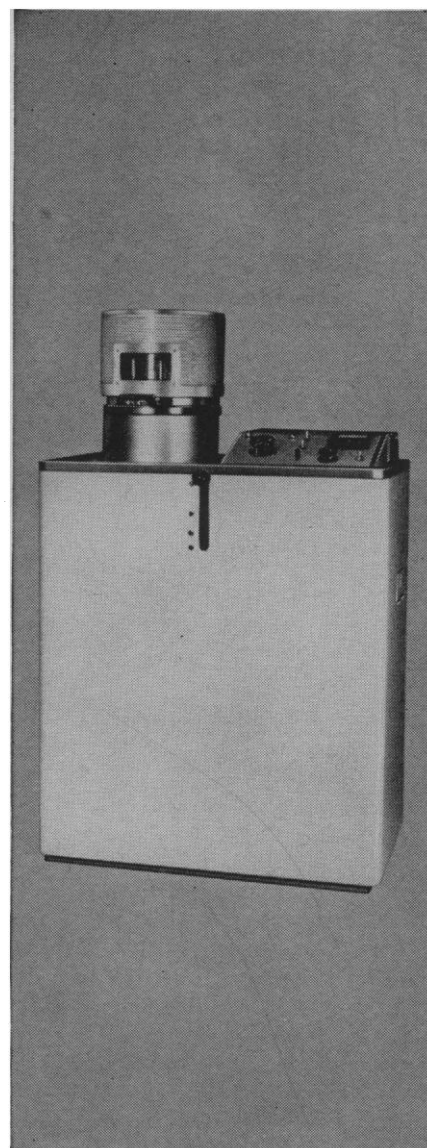
Wall is to be congratulated for not simply reporting this traumatic experience to his lawyer or ambassador and then trying to forget it. By baring his breast in the columns of *Science* he has once again reminded the general public (which would have reacted in a smaller manner) that his community transcends national boundaries and therefore is not responsible to any particular nation.

DAVID ROTHMAN
4954 Hazeltine Avenue,
Sherman Oaks, California

Evolution in Ficus

I have noticed the notable exception mentioned in your review of *Contemporary Botanical Thought* [*Science* 136, 525 (1962)]. I fear your reviewer has not understood. Corner did not attribute anything to a clockwork-like mechanism, as stated in the review, but likened evolution in *Ficus* to a piece of clockwork. Nonsense may be likened to a babbling stream, but who would attribute it to gravity?

E. J. H. CORNER
Department of Botany,
University of Cambridge,
Cambridge, England



Vac-Evap®

(A high speed vacuum evaporator from Bendix)

- 3½ minutes to 1×10^{-4} mm Hg.
- 10 minutes to 5×10^{-5} mm Hg.
- Single lever vacuum control.
- Hinged bell jar (8½" diameter) with protective cover.
- 2 extra feed-through ports for external vacuum connections.
- Specimen protecting shutters controlled from outside vacuum.
- Compact design—takes less than 3½ square feet of floor space. 36 inches high.
- All materials, tools, and accessories supplied, including carbon evaporation unit.

For information, write us at 3130 Wasson Road, Cincinnati 8, Ohio.

Cincinnati Division

