

lot of problems before it can hope to exercise any significant influence on public opinion and policy, the organization set itself on a promising path by its conduct of its latest meeting.

SOS was founded by a group of New York psychiatrists who felt that it would be useful to bring together members of various scientific disciplines to form a "science of survival." The original group is still associated with the organization, but the leadership has passed to a national council headed by Hudson Hoagland, president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and executive director of the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology; Stuart W. Cook, head of the New York University psychology department; and Gerald Wendt, chemist, educator and editor of the *Humanist*. The only holdover among the officers is Ruth Lassoff, executive secretary of the Association for Applied Psychoanalysis, who continues as treasurer.

The change in leadership was accompanied by a decision to make professional standing a qualification for participation in the second congress and to rule out any attempt to produce resolutions. The general public was not invited, although anyone willing to pay the registration fee of \$7.50 was welcome to attend. However, one non-scientist "peace movement" activist who raised a considerable stir at last year's meeting was told this time that no one would feel hurt if he didn't show up.

The result of this new approach was a weekend of serious discussion among some 500 persons, most of them scientists and university faculty members. (Attendance last year was about 700.) The benefits of such a session are difficult to assess, since it is impossible to keep a scorecard on the exchange of ideas, but many of the participants came away with the feeling that their time had been well spent on a variety of subjects, including "Political barriers to disarmament in the area of international politics," "Tension reduction through international cooperative ventures," "Partial steps toward disarmament," "Methods of inspection: Long-range problems of inspection for disarmament," and "The economics of industrial conversion." In appraising the usefulness of the congress, perhaps the most perceptive remark was made by Harold Taylor, former president of Sarah Lawrence College, who said, "it

has been very illuminating, but I am a little concerned about the lack of moral enthusiasm"; by this he apparently meant that the fervor usually associated with the "peace movement" was nowhere in evidence. It was all as calm as a dentists' convention.

Last year's congress concluded with a business meeting that erupted into the row over resolutions. This time there were no business meetings, no resolutions. It was announced that Tom Stonier, of the Rockefeller Institute, would replace Cook, who is joining the University of Colorado, and that sometime within the next 6 weeks the leaders of SOS would meet to plan the organization's future. Just what that will be is uncertain at this point, although the prospects appear to be hopeful, if unspectacular. The turnout at both the first and the second congresses demonstrates that there are many capable scientists and educators who are eager to have their professional capabilities enlisted part-time in the cause of reducing the likelihood of war.

Harnessing those capabilities in an organization like SOS is, however, a difficult matter. A number of "peace-oriented" full-time organizations, such as the Peace Research Institute, are now in existence, while various long-standing part-time organizations, such as the Federation of American Scientists, have carved out a place for themselves as scientific spokesmen in the promotion of peace. The hopeful element, though, is that there is plenty of room for good work, and that if SOS should start producing it, people will listen.

—D.S.G.

Cox Resignation from AIBS Post Announced by Governing Board

The governing board of the American Institute of Biological Sciences has announced that Hiden T. Cox has resigned from the organization, effective 31 August.

Cox was executive director of AIBS from 1955 until last January, when he was appointed long-range planning officer. He said this week that he is not yet certain what he plans to do after he leaves AIBS.

At the same time, John R. Olive, deputy executive director, was appointed executive director, and Charles A. Ossola was reaffirmed as general manager.—D.S.G.

Education: Wiesner Asks Action on Pre-College Science Teaching, Offers Fairly Modest Proposals

While the need for an ample supply of scientific and technical manpower is generally recognized in the United States as a national problem, politics, as much as logic, has shaped the national government's role in the field. Federal action affecting higher education has been concentrated largely on supporting expansion of graduate education, while at the high school level, federal emphasis and money have been limited to efforts to improve curriculum and upgrade teaching.

In a speech last week, Jerome Wiesner, who, as the President's science adviser and head of the new Office of Science and Technology, is the administration's grand vizier for science, asked that more be done to raise the pre-college educational standards in the United States. In his 2 years as science adviser, Wiesner appears to have grown more and more concerned with problems of manpower and education, and a main ingredient of the speech last week seemed to be the acid fruit of experience with education legislation.

Wiesner's subject was "Education for creativity in the sciences," at a 3-day conference on the same subject at New York University. Addressing himself to the problem of increasing national productivity in science and speaking in the context of national policy, Wiesner's prime conclusion was that "initially our quantitatively most important source of new creativeness will be the large proportion of our youth which is now for one reason or another, either denied the opportunity for the necessary education, or is not motivated sufficiently by our society to seek it."

Wiesner based his case on the now familiar dual argument that action is urgently needed because of rapid technological change in the United States—with resulting technological unemployment—and because the Soviet Union is now outproducing us in scientific and technical manpower, in part by according their scientists, engineers, and technicians relatively higher social status and material rewards than we accord ours.

In discussing the prospects for new federal programs at the pre-college level, Wiesner demonstrated a grasp of the governing realities when he said, "The responsibility for the general character of our elementary and secondary