

A Correction

Last week in this space it was incorrectly stated that Bennett A. Robin was indicted in connection with the drug Mer/29, a product of the Richardson-Merrell Company. Robin has had no connection with Richardson-Merrell or Mer/29. He was indicted for reporting fictitious tests on five other drugs to their manufacturers, thus "willfully causing the manufacturers of the five drugs to file false case studies with the FDA in support of their applications for FDA approval of the drugs." Richardson-Merrell is currently under investigation by a grand jury in connection with Mer/29 in another respect. The company voluntarily withdrew the drug from the market.

of research on the reactions of normal people under stress."

Two field studies of responses to the news were undertaken immediately. One, under the auspices of the University of Chicago, was nationwide; the other was confined to Washington, D.C. Both studies used the interview technique and were said to have utilized cross sections of the population.

The interviewers were interested in such questions as these: How did people behave during that weekend? What did they do? What kind of emotional reaction did they actually experience—was it grief, or guilt, or panic, or what? What assumptions did Americans make about the "meaning" of the assassination—who did they think did it, and why, and how did their response fit in with their general views about America? How did the institutions of society stand up under the sudden pressure—how did people use their churches, clubs? How did people use the mass media—did they take comfort from its widely commended 24-hour coverage, and why? What social or emotional function did it fulfill?

The initial interviews were completed soon after the event; most of the material, however, remains to be collated, organized, and developed. How fast this can be done, and whether follow-up studies can be undertaken, depends on whether the participating social scientists succeed in attracting a foundation to underwrite them. Lack-

ing this, it will be a spare-time project for those involved. An informal committee—the group that met in Washington—is coordinating the work. The members of that committee are Leonard Duhl, Eric Lindemann, Marc Fried, Peter Rossi, Donald Michael, Robert Leopold, William Soskin, Henry Reicken, and Robert Bower. (Inquiries may be addressed to Robert Bower, Bureau of Social Science Research, 1424 16th Street, NW, Washington, D.C.)

Meanwhile, the politicians are using their own techniques and resources to determine the impact of the assassination of the President, and its meaning for the country. It is an odd occasion for a partisan split, but so far the tendency has been for Republicans to consider the assassin an isolated madman, while the Democrats talk of a social malaise more general and call, as J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) has done, for "a national self-examination." "It may be," Fulbright said in a speech in Washington on 5 December, "that the cause lies wholly in the tormented brain of the assassin. It may be that the nation as a whole is healthy and strong, and entirely without responsibility for the great misfortune that has befallen it. It would be comforting to think so. I for one," Senator Fulbright continued, "do not think so. I believe that our society, though in most respects decent, civilized, and humane, is not, and has never been, entirely so. Our national life . . . has also been marked by a baleful and incongruous strand of intolerance and violence."

Senator Thruston Morton (R-Ky.) does not agree. "It was not a flaw in the American system or the American character that struck down John Kennedy," he told his fellow senators last week. "It was not the sin of a city or of its citizens. It was not a tragedy that struck from some dark stain of violence on the American system or in the American soil. . . . Let us mourn the terrible event," Morton went on, "but let us not mourn for the American soul—for that soul is stout and lighted by truth and faith."

The House Republican Policy Committee, in a statement issued last weekend, took a position akin to Morton's: "There is guilt," the Republicans said, "but it is not American guilt, but the guilt of the murderer. There is hatred, fanaticism, and bigotry in the world, but America is not its source, or loyal Americans its practioners."—E.L.

Announcements

Pennsylvania State University plans to open a graduate center for **scientists and engineers** at King of Prussia, Pa. The center, the university's first resident graduate facility located away from the University Park campus, is scheduled to begin its program 9 January, with a curriculum leading to the master of engineering degree. A. Witt Hutchison, chemistry professor at the university, has been named assistant dean of the graduate school, and director of the new center.

The University of Illinois has established a **water resources** center to administer grants and review proposals for support of water research programs. The center will include programs of related departments in the university, along with the engineering and agricultural experiment stations on the campus; it will also work with the Illinois water, geological, and natural history surveys.

Meeting Notes

The National Society for **Programmed Instruction** has issued the call for papers for its annual convention, scheduled 1-4 April in San Antonio, Texas. The meeting will include papers on theory and experimentation, methodology, training technology, administration, and application of programmed instruction. Abstracts of 300 words are required in triplicate. Deadline: *5 January*. (NSPI Program Committee, Trinity University, 715 Stadium Drive, San Antonio, Tex. 78212)

The 1964 national **telemetering** conference is scheduled 2-4 June, in Los Angeles, Calif. Papers are invited on the applications of telemetry in biomedicine, manufacturing, geology, spacecraft, oceanography, and zoology. Deadline for receipt of completed papers: *1 January*. (W. S. Pope, Natl. Telemetering Conference 1964, 8420 Quinn St., Downey, Calif.)

Courses

The school of chemistry at the University of Minnesota is accepting applications for a program in the **physical chemistry of radiation processes**. The