

the Smithsonian seems somewhat out of place in Ripley's plush office. After he became Secretary of the Smithsonian in 1964, Ripley ordered his office restored to furnishings of 19th-century luxury, a move which suits the Victorian "castle" in which the headquarters of the Smithsonian are housed. To visit Ripley one crosses thick carpets to a room where the harsh realities of an industrial, urban world seem never to have penetrated.

Ripley's own well-tailored appearance harmonizes with the gracious decoration of his office. An active ornithologist who directed the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale before coming to the Smithsonian, he is clearly a cultured, and urbane man. Ripley exudes an air of dashing gentility; he is not the type one would choose to lead a "slumming" expedition.

For all his refinement of manner, Ripley is an active-minded man who has assembled a group of intellectually energetic aides. One of these is Charles Blitzer, the Smithsonian's director of education and training. The soft-spoken Blitzer, a former professor and executive associate of the American Council of Learned Societies, no more looks like an earthy exponent of slum preservation than does Ripley. But if a slum is built in the Smithsonian, it is Blitzer who can claim credit for the idea.

Blitzer makes it clear that he thinks it would be a mistake to turn museums into "chambers of horror," but at the same time he thinks that history museums have a scholarly responsibility to attempt to show the reality of life. "The display of the best of the past characterizes our museums," he said in an interview, "but the best of the past is not the way it really was."

"It's the nasty side of life that we're in danger of losing today," Blitzer said, as he explained why he wants museums to give more attention to portraying the human conditions that prevailed when the artifacts on exhibit were in use. "If you go over to the Museum of History and Technology you will see all these beautiful, gleaming machines looking like they begat the later machines," Blitzer noted. "The whole beautiful display gives the impression that these machines were run by people who were wearing white gloves."

"The railroad-flat slum is more important in the development of America than the log cabin is," Blitzer argues, as he explains his preference for "more dirt, grease, and noise" in museums.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

● **EXCHANGE STUDENT ENROLLMENT:** A record number of college and university students, teachers, and scholars participated in educational exchange programs between the United States and other countries last year, according to *Open Doors 1966*, the annual census of the Institute of International Education. Individuals involved in exchange during the academic year 1965-66 totaled 125,000, up from 113,000 last year. Excluded from the study are 11,000 foreign students who said they intended to remain in the United States. (Data on these students is not included because a foreign student traditionally is defined as a person who comes to this country expressly for an education and states his intention of returning home afterward.) For the third consecutive year, the number of incoming foreign students was less than one-third of the total foreign student population, which leads to the assumption that the growth of the foreign student population in the United States during the past 3 years is due to the fact that students are staying here longer.

● **U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY:** The Navy, groping for a solution to the inherently difficult problem of giving faculty members a voice in the affairs of a military institution (*Science*, 20 May), is trying out a newly established Academic Forum. The Forum is made up of 30 civilian faculty representatives who are elected within their departments and 28 officer faculty members who are appointed by the Academy Superintendent, Rear Admiral Draper L. Kauffman. The superintendent is the Forum's permanent chairman. The first meeting of the Forum was held last month, and, among the civilian faculty representatives who attended, the attitude is said to be mixed. Some take an optimistic view and believe the Forum will evolve into an effective faculty advisory body of the kind the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors recommended last spring. However, a number are afraid that the Forum, though meant to permit frank and open discussion of Academy policies, will provide no means by which the faculty, as a group, can develop and articulate policy positions.

● **CLARK UNIVERSITY:** Rudolph F. Nunnemacher, chairman of the biology department at Clark University, has resigned as chairman of the faculty Pre-medical Advisory Committee at the request of University president, Howard B. Jefferson. Nunnemacher informed students that he would not recommend them for graduate school if they demonstrated against U.S. policy in Vietnam when Vice President Humphrey was on campus for a convocation on 12 October. Jefferson, commenting on Nunnemacher's resignation, said, "... in consideration of his stated unwillingness to provide recommendations to graduate and professional schools for students... I feel this action is imperative in order to assure the students that their chances for admission to professional schools will in no way be prejudiced because of their political views and activities or the attitude which Dr. Nunnemacher had taken with respect to them."

● **PEACE CORPS SUPPORTS RESEARCH:** The Peace Corps has announced a new program of fellowships for predoctoral and postdoctoral research in the social and behavioral sciences relating to Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The Peace Corps is particularly interested in studies of guided social change that would indicate what Peace Corps programs are accomplishing, and how they can be made more effective; studies designed to produce text and case materials that could be used in cross-cultural training for specific jobs in Peace Corps countries; and studies of volunteers who have terminated either in training or overseas that would improve the predictive capabilities of the Peace Corps selection process.

Service as a Peace Corps volunteer, or other overseas experience, is desirable but not a prerequisite for the program. Most of the researchers would conduct work in other countries, although study wholly within the United States would be possible. Living costs and travel expenses would be shared by the Peace Corps and the individual, by the Peace Corps and the university, or by both the individual and his institutions. Application should be made to Charles Peters, Peace Corps, Washington, D.C. 20525.