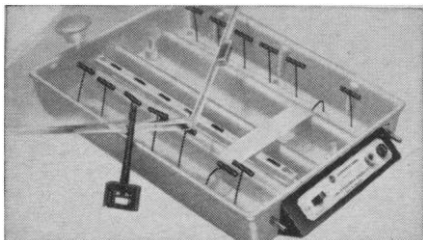


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but a basis for real corrective action will have been obtained. Berkeley did not reach its present position by virtue of preferential treatment by federal agencies. If Ohio (and other states in similar situations) decides to discard her comfortable whipping boys and attempt real improvement, both Ohio and the nation will benefit.

J. DERRAL MULHOLLAND
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Burgeoning ABM Costs

The antiballistic missile program is about to receive a \$5-billion down payment from our government. This initial program may be expanded into an estimated \$40 billion project. If so, the dark financial cloud now hanging over other government programs may prove to be merely the beginning of a long night.

I am told that, in foreign policy as in other areas, governmental decisions are made by a process of accommodating diverse and conflicting interests. Scientists, whether pure, applied, or intermediate, are combatants in a long, unrelenting war against poverty, misery, disease, and ignorance. As such, we have a legitimate vested interest in advocating foreign policies which tend to keep expenditures for national defense within reasonable limits.

The scientific community needs to decide where it stands on crucial issues and then to apply pressure in appropriate places. I suggest an unbiased poll of the readers of *Science*, or of some other suitably chosen population, to determine which issues evoke some degree of consensus.

BARUCH S. JACOBSON
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Essay on Criticism

While sympathizing deeply with McVittie's letter, "Groping through spoken English" (1 Sept., p. 992), I feel we should perhaps bear in mind the well-known words of Alexander Pope, "To 'er' is human. . . ."

DAISY LOMAN
Science Policy Division, UNESCO,
Place de Fontenoy, Paris 7^e, France

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