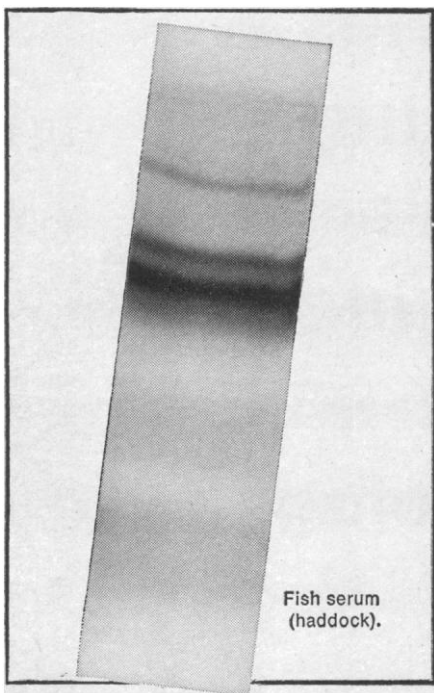


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## A Revolt against Time and Effort Reports

I believe the following considerations should be brought to the attention of the academic scientific community. They concern time and effort reports required in connection with government research grants. In October 1966, the Association of Graduate Deans passed the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the Association of Graduate Schools instruct its President to call upon the Association of American Universities to join in addressing to the President of the United States our respectful requests: 1. that the present requirement for reporting of effort by individual members of the professional staff be suspended immediately because it admits no meaningful compliance.

This resolution is reproduced on page 126 of the *Journal of the Proceedings of the AGS*, 1966, with further explanations as follows:

The earlier motion on individual effort-reporting had proposed involving CGS in the attempt to get a revision, and had not proposed immediate suspension of the present requirement while negotiations were being undertaken. Dean Halford feared that if negotiations alone were proposed the results would be delayed two to four years, and that AGS had the most at stake in this area whereas most of the institutions in CGS were not deeply involved in this problem. Furthermore, as the presidents of AAU had expressed interest in working with the AGS in implementing specific recommendations of the Policies Committee report, and since there are on many campuses separate officers other than the graduate deans who serve as research coordinators, the group decided to address the AAU presidents in these matters. Dean Halford announced that in the event that this invitation to the presidents is not acted upon by them, the dean would be informed by mail as to some alternate course of action.

[After adjournment of the AGS meeting, President McCarthy transmitted this resolution to President Grayson Kirk and President Nathan Pusey, President and Secretary of AAU respectively. On December 2, 1966 he was informed that President Kirk had appointed a committee to consider the issues raised in this resolution. Its members were Herbert E. Longenecker of Tulane as chairman; President Fred H. Harrington, Wisconsin; President James A. Perkins, Cornell; Dean Ralph S. Halford, Columbia; and Dean Joseph L. McCarthy, University of Washington. —Ed.]

I am informed that the committee appointed by the presidents has never met. But, in any case, what did the presidents expect after the problem had been considered by a body like the Association of Deans? As I have em-

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phasized repeatedly, the threat to unfettered academic support does not only arise from certain pressures in the government, but from inadequate representation of academic interests by some university administrators (Letters, 17 Feb.). I regard the inaction of the presidents, members of the AAU, as a failure in the exercise of academic responsibilities.

By their inaction, the presidents will lose the confidence of the professors, and they have allowed a bad situation to deteriorate still further. The professors will lose confidence in normal channels of administration, and seek other channels for redress. As an example, the Council of the American Mathematical Society on 29 August passed the following resolution:

The Council of the American Mathematical Society urges responsible university officers to take immediate action to have time and effort reports and similar documents pertaining to faculty members' time eliminated, because it considers that such documents are incompatible with academic life and work. The council reiterates the traditional view that teaching and research are inseparable and that accounting procedures in universities must take account of their unitary character.


Simultaneously, the Council instructed the president of the AMS to appoint a committee "to work toward mutually acceptable modifications with appropriate Government administrators." This committee has been appointed (G. W. Mackey, Harvard; R. S. Palais, Brandeis; Alex Rosenberg, Cornell).

Under the circumstances, I don't see how deans with any self-respect can continue to pass on for signing to their faculties the time and effort reports. And furthermore, I don't see how the professors can agree to sign them.

As for the larger picture, the universities are becoming more and more dependent financially on the government. At a time when policies governing the universities are being determined for the foreseeable future, it is extraordinarily important that our administrators should insure, in their dealings with the government, that traditional academic values and standards are upheld. Ultimately, it is also the responsibility of the professors to refuse to submit to requirements which destroy these standards.

SERGE LANG

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