

The Summer Study Panel whose report Greenberg reviewed came into being at the request of the director of the Department of Defense Research and Engineering. Under a contract with the Academy, the Defense Science Board conducted a number of study panels, including the one on "defense social and behavioral sciences," at the Academy's summer study center at Williamstown, Massachusetts. While the Academy was responsible for the administration of the summer study, the study panels alone were responsible for the findings they made and the reports they submitted. As Greenberg observed in his account, the report in question is being circulated for comment. Its findings and recommendations have not as yet been accepted by the Department of Defense. Nor have they been endorsed by the Academy. The summer study was conducted without involving either the Division of Behavioral Sciences as such or the National Research Council Committee on Government Programs in the Behavioral Sciences, and the report of the panel should not be read as reflecting the views of the social and behavioral scientists who are their members.

The executive secretary of the Committee on Government Programs in the Behavioral Sciences was invited to attend the study panel meeting as an observer and was present, as Greenberg reported, for only one day. Unfortunately, his name was erroneously listed in the report as a panel member.

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The article explicitly stated that the study was conducted at the request of the Department of Defense, and that the findings of the panel do not necessarily reflect the views of the Academy. The article did not state or imply that the views of the panel were endorsed by the Academy or that the study involved the Division of Behavioral Sciences or the NRC Committee on Government Programs in the Behavioral Sciences. Finally, it was the Academy that erred in listing Lyons as a member of the panel; it was *Science* that pointed out that he attended only one day of the panel's deliberations.

The Academy's sensitivity to revelation of its association with this blue-

print for subversion of the academic social sciences is readily understandable. It is easy, of course, to charge nonexistent "inadequacies" in *Science's* description of its report; my own view is that if any inadequacies exist, they are in the judgment process that permits the Academy to be associated with such dubious schemes.

—D. S. GREENBERG

### "All We Like Sheep Have Gone Astray"

Good is absolutely right in his statement (Letters, 22 Sept.) that most scientists actually prefer to read an inflated gobbledygook style to a simple one. Knowing that such a style will cover their flimsy or vague thought when their turn to write comes along, they feel it's safe. But *should* we, as scientists—supposedly individualists, iconoclasts, mold-breakers—allow ourselves to follow the safe course like a lot of bureaucrats, "company men," or sheep? Has no one the courage not to be led astray?

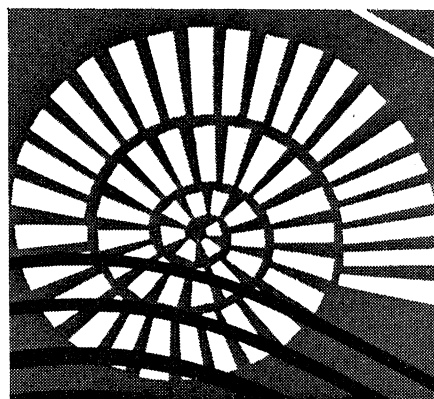
Mr. Good, the graduate student, had something straightforward to say and would have gained high praise at the Rockefeller University for writing it simply (though not, perhaps, quite so colloquially). The manifold difficulties encountered by Dr. Good, the physicist, in his adult manifestations of conformity with interactive, structured communication have evidently already taken their toll, however, to judge from the gross inaccuracy of his reference to (I suppose) my article on clear writing published earlier in the year. It provides a neat further example of my contention that pompous, automatic writing—whether consciously or unconsciously adopted—leads to carelessness in everything.

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### Pollution by Consent

Would Gus Turbeville (Letters, 20 Oct.) agree with me that tobacco smoking might be made legal for consenting adults in private?

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