

entist worthy of his chalk can give a quick and rigorous proof, based on rock-bottom fundamentals, that any particular idea, *already known to be incorrect*, is obviously, or even trivially, absurd. But the converse reasoning has failed in such an impressively large number of important cases, that it seems to be a relatively weak and unconvincing method of scholarly procedure.

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#### References

1. J. L. Alloway, *J. Exp. Med.* **55**, 91 (1932); **57**, 265 (1933).
2. O. T. Avery, C. M. MacLeod, M. McCarty, *ibid.* **79**, 137 (1944).

### Reciprocity in War

Are the "thirteen hundred fellows and active members of the American Sociological Association" (22 Dec., p. 1553), also planning to send an open letter to Ho Chi Minh, protesting the recent North Vietnamese massacre of Montagnard women and children with flame-throwers?

I urge them to do so, for it is obviously hypocritical to protest "the continued . . . killing of civilians" by the United States and remain silent when the other side does the same thing, and deliberately at that. I think the sociologists should conduct an "orderly, phased withdrawal" from this sort of advocacy, lest they open their own "credibility gap."

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### Our Age of Elegance

I was pleased to note that, in the program for the recent AAAS meeting, female leaders of section meetings and symposia were listed as *Chairlady*. It seems that, in spite of our slacks and miniskirts, all respect for womanhood is not lost! However, in order to forestall a demand from the other sex for equal rights, may I suggest that at the 1968 meeting male leaders of section meetings and symposia be listed as *Chairgentleman*.

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1 MARCH 1968



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