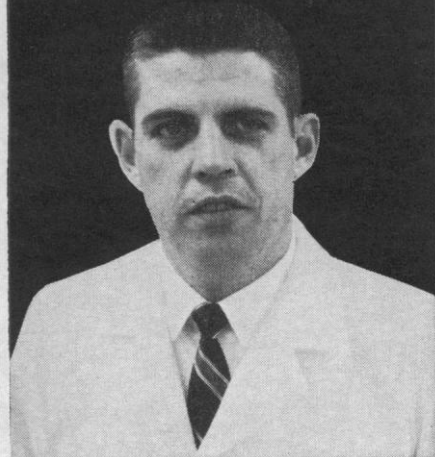


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W. E. Pilgrim, Senior Scientist,
at Reynolds Metals Company.
(Lab type: General Analytical)



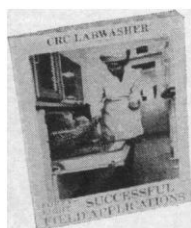
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of these taxes by the federal and state governments greatly exceeds the slight menace to his health which other people's smoking causes.

This is not to argue that the status quo is the best of all possible worlds with respect to tobacco. It isn't even a very good world. If we wish to improve it, however, it is necessary to understand what is actually being done.

GORDON TULLOCK

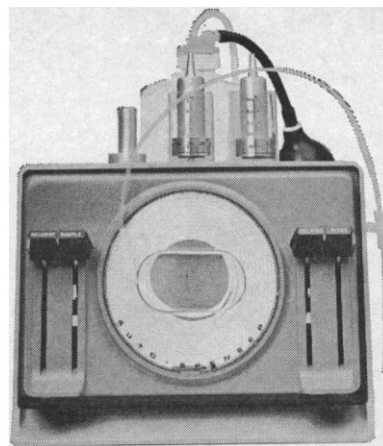
Department of Economics,
Rice University,
Houston, Texas 77001

Dams Take Planning

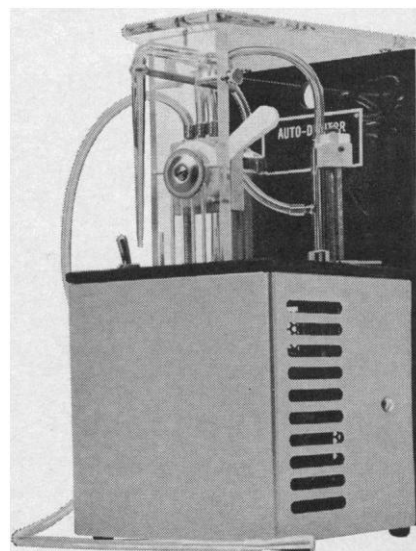
Nelson, in his article entitled "Expansion of Idaho reservoir: Indians, scientists on warpath" (12 Jan., p. 173), refers to the proposed replacement of the existing American Falls dam as suiting "the desires of the Bureau of Reclamation, an agency which needs new work to continue justifying the existence of its highly developed engineering staff" and says that "it may seem especially attractive to the Bureau during the current budget crunch, since the Administration is actively discouraging all new construction projects which are not directly related to Vietnam. If any new dams are to be built in this country, a likely candidate for construction would be a replacement for a defective structure."

The Bureau of Reclamation does not dream up dam constructions simply as makework projects. All our projects are presented to the Congress after review by the Bureau of the Budget and no construction contracts are let until a project is fully authorized and funds are appropriated. This process requires two separate actions by the Congress. Under such circumstances and particularly on controversial projects such as the American Falls proposal, it requires a matter of years to authorize the project and get it underway.

We do not envisage the project as one which should be undertaken during the existing budget emergency. The existing dam is deteriorating, but our engineers are convinced it will last for many more years provided proper precautions are taken in the operation of the structure to insure its safety. This will result in a winter drawdown of the reservoir and loss of water. We feel it must ultimately be replaced. While there is no question that the available water in the Upper



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SCIENCE, VOL. 160

Snake River basin can be better utilized by an enlarged reservoir, this is a matter for the local people, including the Shoshone-Bannock Indians, and ultimately for the Congress to decide.

The time to make such a determination is while it can be fully considered, rather than wait until the pressure of an immediate emergency forces a decision. The Idaho State water board is conducting hearings to determine the facts and aid in reaching a decision.

FLOYD E. DOMINY

*Bureau of Reclamation,
U.S. Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C. 20240*

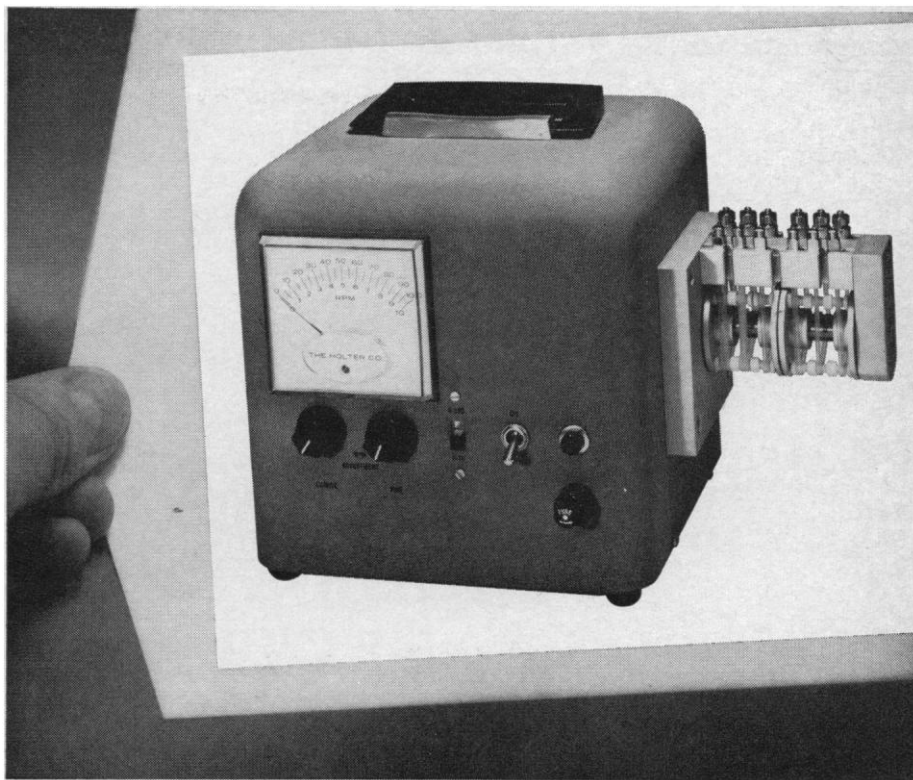
Predicting Occupational Success

Goslin's statement that "most existing studies show no correlation between test scores and subsequent occupational success (nor is any correlation shown between academic performance as measured by grades and subsequent occupational success)" is likely to be misleading ("Standardized ability tests and testing," 23 Feb., p. 851). Tested intellectual ability and demonstrated academic achievement are potent predictors of adult occupational attainment. For example, IQ-150 boys are, on the average, much more successful occupationally as adults than are IQ-100 boys, and male high school valedictorians tend to succeed better than their lower-quarter classmates. In general, such contrasting groups do not enter the same occupations. How many theoretical physicists had childhood Binet IQ's of 100? How many high school valedictorians become semiskilled workers?

It is *within* occupations that the correlation of test scores and school grades with measures of life success tends to be low, probably to a considerable extent because of movement into different occupations according to ability and educational achievement. Goslin knows this, of course ("A minimum level of intelligence is obviously required for most occupations . . .," p. 853), but it is easy for the reader to lose sight of the considerable value of ability tests and grades during childhood and adolescence for predicting occupational level and, hence, a number of measures of life success *across* occupations.

JULIAN C. STANLEY

*Department of Education and
Psychology,
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