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and tensions that were part and parcel of its scientific history? Will the stories of photosynthesis and of oxidative phosphorylation, when written, be properly recorded if they hide the fact that some of their protagonists were often at bitter odds, for scientific as well as personal reasons?

Science is a human enterprise, one of the greatest, in fact, because in its course it embodies better than any other intellectual pursuit the productive outcome of human cooperation. Why should the vital interplay between competition and mutuality in the scientific enterprise be kept hidden?

Indeed, if science is really important, why should the brilliant, sarcastic wit of such as Erwin Chargaff be less a part of history than that of a Talleyrand or a Disraeli?

S. E. LURIA

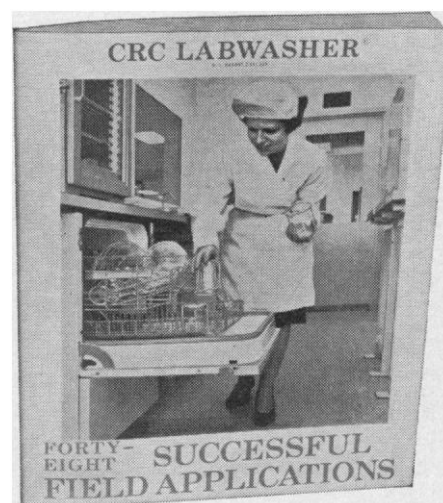
*Department of Biology,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge 02139*

One Wrong To Justify Another

Greenberg's excellent article on the marijuana raid at Stony Brook (9 Feb., p. 607) is a perfect exposition of the older generation's apparent helplessness when confronted with adolescent stupidity. The misguided young pot smokers attempt to justify their behavior on the grounds that other things (tobacco and alcohol, used to excess) are known to be bad but are not prohibited; therefore marijuana (the extent of whose deleterious effects are not known with scientific precision) must also be permitted. To generalize, we must not proscribe any evil as long as we allow some other evils to exist.

It seems to me that this rationalization is being used in all kinds of situations by those who would defy any form of authority. In matters of religion we are told that because there are some hypocrites in the congregation (which is true) all pronouncements of churchmen are without standing. In matters of morals, the fact that certain deviations are tolerated or poorly enforced is held to negate all moral authority. The fact that some adults are Babbitts or "squares" is considered ample justification for spurning the advice of all adults. The fact that we don't allow the police to break people's doors down to check up on what they are reading in bed is supposed to make it all right to

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peddle semipornographic trash in bookstores and theaters. The fact that some white people are prejudiced is given as reason enough to "burn Whitey," and because some Negroes riot there are those who would put "the Negro" back in his place. In every instance, one wrong is being used to justify another.

There is no reason to be surprised that such childish reasoning is used by immature people—this has been going on since time immemorial. What is so discouraging is that supposedly intelligent people, including a fairly strong and vociferous segment of our educators and scientists, are not only unable to cope with such arguments on the part of adolescent students, but actually side with the students in their blind rebellion against any standards of conduct.

JOHN D. ALDEN

98 Sunnyside Avenue,
Pleasantville, New York 10570

Research on Aging: A Proposal

In my letter (15 Dec.) essentially supporting Strehler's view on aging research, I suggested the "creation of a Research Commission of Aging which would be directly responsible to the President and Congress and the transfer to this Commission of authority for all basic biological research on aging—in effect, formation of an AEC of biological aging." Unfortunately Strehler interpreted my statement to mean creation of an organization of the *financial* size and complexity of the AEC, while I intended it to refer only to an organization with centralized responsibility and authority similar to the AEC. I had in mind an organization of perhaps 100 people whose primary purpose would be to monitor contracts with universities, hospitals, and independent research groups. A secondary purpose would be to carry on in-house research, both to verify contract results and to explore concepts which were not under contract. A third purpose would be to stimulate private research interest in the biological mechanisms of aging. These three aims could be accomplished on an annual budget of between \$5 million and \$50 million, progressing from the smaller to the larger value as the commission became established.

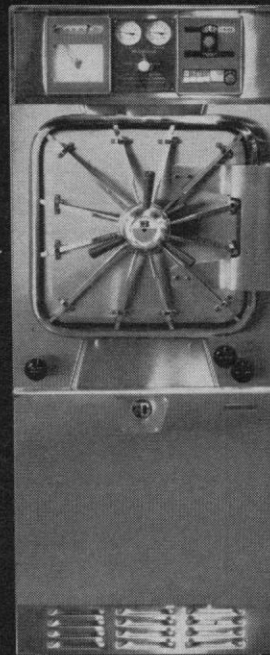
DONALD G. CARPENTER

Department of Physics, U.S. Air
Force Academy, Colorado 80840

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