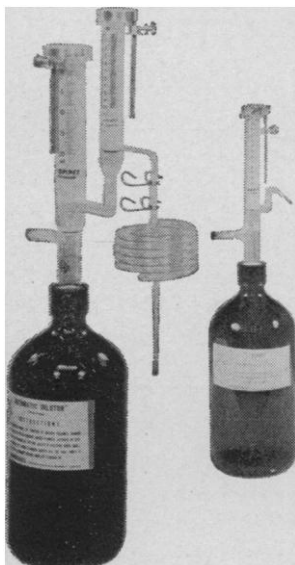


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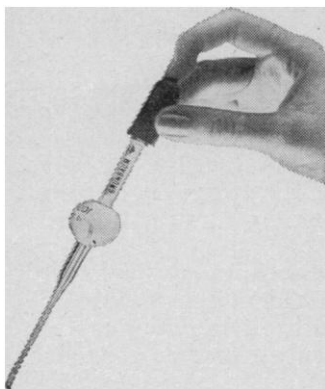


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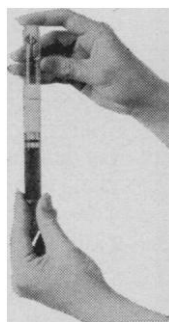
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controversy—which concerns a variety of issues and is expressed in a variety of ways—of understanding the constitutional principles concerning dissent and civil disobedience, and of discriminating among the various means by which disagreements are expressed. I am sorry Strickland misunderstood.

DAEL WOLFLE

Funding: Long-Term or Annual

Two recent articles ("The status and problems of high-energy physics today," 5 July, p. 11; and "Government agencies preparing to reduce spending," 12 July, p. 143), and an editorial (28 June, p. 1400) have all emphasized how costly national scientific efforts become when there is uncertainty as to the actual amount of federal support forthcoming in a fiscal year. Perhaps the most spectacular instance of this was Project Mohole on which large sums were spent until Congress abruptly cut off further funds, and thus wasted the efforts of the scientists and all the money previously expended.

Under present appropriation procedures many projects are authorized by legislation which contains a specific dollar ceiling and expires every year. The ceiling must thus be reviewed annually on each extension by the House and Senate. Following this, appropriations must be considered in each house. This involves four separate instances when the fate of the program is at stake. In a 4-year program, this amounts to 16 reviews. The impact of such uncertain funding is obvious. Few businesses can operate on a short-term basis, and scientific research specifically requires long-term advance planning.

The present practice is not constitutionally required. Under many programs, funds may be voted to remain available until expended, as is done under long-term contracts in the federal highway program. Some authorizing statutes permit the appropriation of such funds as Congress may from time to time find necessary. There is no requirement for the present practice of specifying dollar amounts in authorizing legislation. The difficulty caused by the existing practice of enacting short-term authorization statutes with dollar limits on federal appropriations creates instability in research work and insecurity among researchers. With such uncertainty, many qualified experts have been reluctant to participate in a new

field. A proposal (H.R. 16729) now before a House-Senate conference committee would permit funding during one year for expenditures for the following year under certain education programs.

The Committee on Federal Legislation of the New York County Lawyers' Association recently recommended long-range funding and stated:

... [it] is not novel. Whenever it has become clear that long-range planning with knowledge that funds are available is indispensable to the effectiveness of a program, methods have been found to achieve this. Any other course is wasteful and amounts to throwing away a large part of the funds spent, because they cannot be effectively used without long-term planning. . . .

Scientists might well join forces with those working in other fields to further the cause of long-term funding.

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A Matter of Judgment

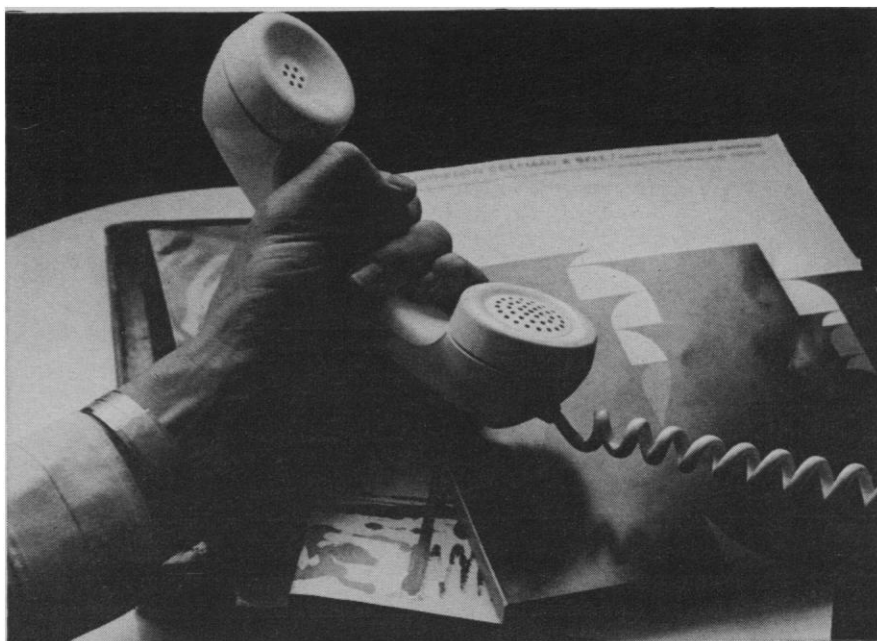
Conservation controversies are disputes in viewpoint. Porter (Letters, 5 July), argues that the proposed mining in Glacier Bay National Monument is desirable because greater benefits would result than would by leaving the Monument inviolate. I would argue the opposite, but for exactly the same reason. The point of disagreement is not one which can be resolved by "objective analysis" of the "facts." These are differences in value and judgment. . . . Most resource allocation problems are not ones of "right" versus "wrong," of conservationists fighting greedy exploiters, but rather they are disputes over what constitutes the best kind of conservation. Certainly scientists can point out the danger of pesticides, but how can they decide the Glacier Bay mining dispute? Does the recent article on coast redwood ecology by Stone and Vasey (12 Jan., p. 157) resolve the Redwood National Park question? I think not.

Criteria for decision-making in conservation controversies (use versus preservation of landscapes) is needed. . . . The search for answers must start with defining the goals, values, and purposes of society. Science does not claim to answer questions of civil rights; is the problem of mining in Glacier Bay National Monument really any different?

TOM VALE

Department of Geography,
University of California, Berkeley

13 SEPTEMBER 1968



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