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The Fellows and all other social scientists should do some soul-searching on these points. I have no ready answers. I am afraid, however, that this proposed study is Orwellian rather than scientific, and that its findings should be subjected to careful study on both scientific and moral grounds.

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The following "ancients" thought they had found a solution to student unrest and protests. When the studies by our behavioral scientists are completed, will we moderns do better?

Memorandum of 5-6 June 1819 from Gentz to Adam Muller (copy to Metternich):

It has long been, and still is, my belief—and, as I observe with delight, it is yours also—that the precedence of the positive sciences over the philosophical and critical sciences must be emphatically vindicated. Here lies one of the best means of re-establishing the predominance of authority over spurious freedom; for anyone can philosophize and criticize (and mysticize and poetize) as he pleases, but positive sciences have to be *learned*. Only when young people resolve to learn once more, in the true sense, will they again be capable of intellectual obedience, without which academic life is merely a prelude of the wild anarchy in which the entire political life of our day is lost (1).

GILBERT B. DEVEY

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Reference

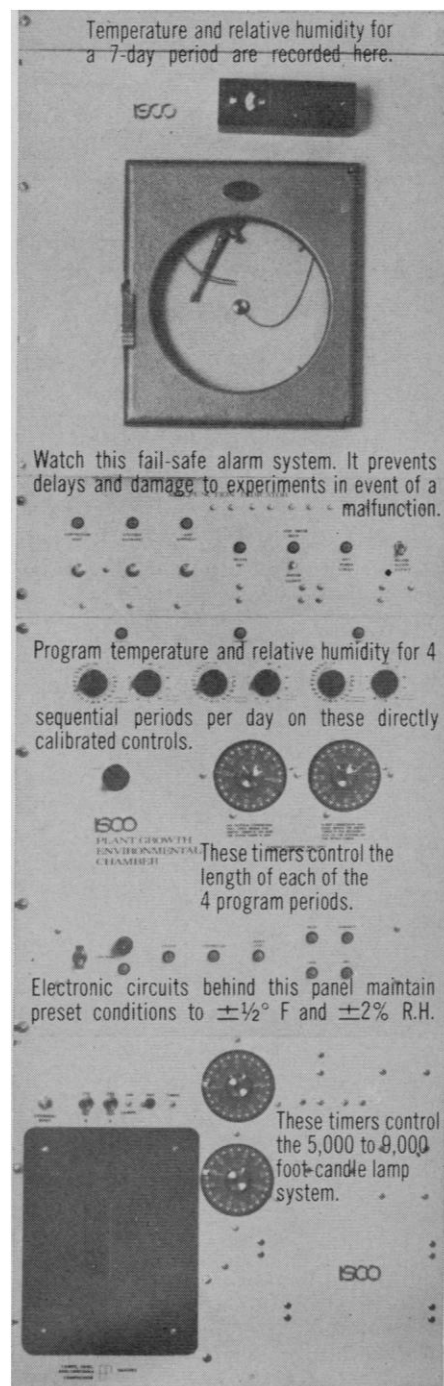
1. I. Barea, *Vienna* (Knopf, New York, 1966), p. 132.

Unvarying Climate at Lincoln

Nelson's report of Admiral Rickover's testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee earlier this year includes the Admiral's discussion of DoD's Project Themis. He is reported to have said that "Project Lincoln at M.I.T." has seminars that "are held in pleasant places where the climate and the living conditions are good" ("Research probe: Rickover broadsides 'military-scientific complex,'" 2 Aug., p. 446).

Admiral Rickover's statement is incorrect. M.I.T. and Lincoln Laboratory do not receive any funds from Project Themis. Lincoln Laboratory conducts whatever staff meetings and seminars it

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has on the laboratory premises which are located in government-owned buildings in Lexington, Massachusetts, adjacent to Hanscom Air Force Base. The implication that Lincoln Laboratory runs seminars or meetings for its permanent staff or for visiting scientists at resort or vacation areas has no basis in fact.

J. P. RUINA

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Contaminating Hamster Cells

The *Bulletin* of the Tissue Culture Association (September, 1967) lists several "Catastrophies in the tissue culture laboratory." I should like to call attention to our mistaken observation of "enhanced growth of human embryonic cells infected with adenovirus 12" (1).

The inadvertent presence of some contaminating hamster cells in cultures from the same human embryo received months apart was responsible ultimately for this "enhanced growth." A similar culture purchased from the same source but derived from a different embryo did not develop accelerated growth. It became clear that a few contaminating cells were transformed in the presence of virus and eventually replaced the human cell population as the latter was less resistant to killing. Identification of the hamster cells was by immunologic and karyotypic studies and by animal inoculation.

In order to test for the possibility that some of the human cells might have been similarly affected, a culture taken soon after infection was passaged under conditions designed to suppress or to eliminate hamster cells immunologically. At least some cells produced virus continuously and many contained T antigen. Growth was very slow and the effort was discontinued after 2 years.

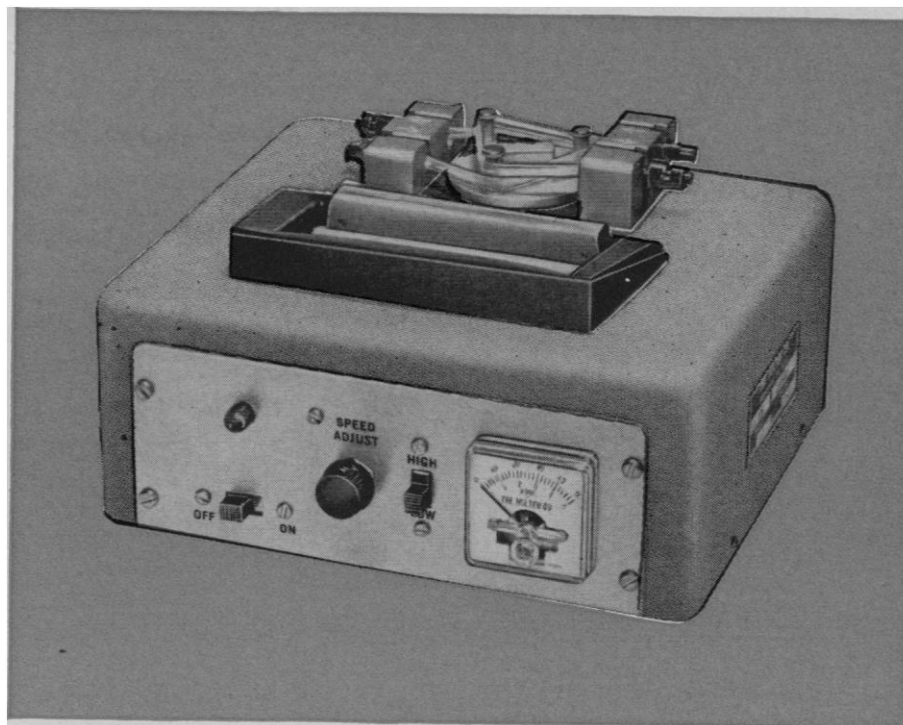
Although the source of the contaminating hamster cells was not rigorously established, attention is called again to the hazard of taking for granted the expected purity of species in cell cultures of this description.

GUSTAVE FREEMAN

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Reference

1. I. V. Sultanian and G. Freeman, *Science* **154**, 665 (1966).



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