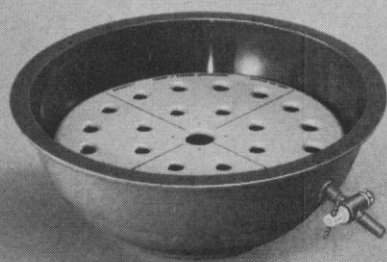


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meet all or most of the cost by raising subscription rates. Some are organs of societies that have comfortable publication reserves. Perhaps an effort to obtain direct subsidies may be the most feasible and equitable solution. These might be administered by a special committee of the National Academy of Sciences. Subsidies on a continuing basis will have to come from the government, but as an emergency measure some of the foundations might be willing to contribute to maintain the quality and quantity of American scientific publications.

HARRY GRUNDFEST

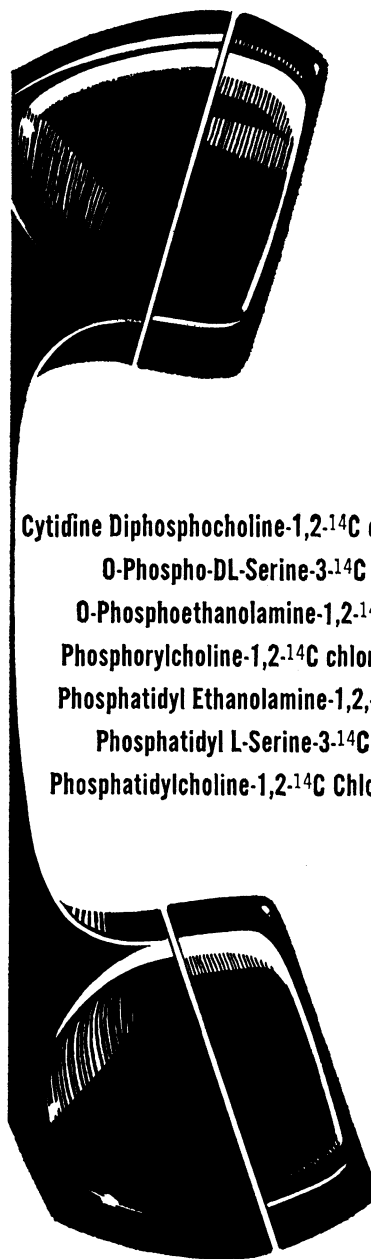
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The University in Many Mirrors

C. West Churchman has taken the opportunity in his review of *The Closed Corporation: American Universities in Crisis* (14 Feb., p. 664) to drag his own soapbox to Sather Gate. Despite his oversimplified references to public figures, I applaud most of his pronouncements. His final question "What is a university?" is certainly the most important question to ask. Individual answers will range from a laboratory-library concept of detached experimentation and ascetic activity to describing an orgy of collective involvement in controversial issues of the moment. Also, the pictures of the ideal student-teacher relationship will vary from one showing a harsh master-apprentice arrangement to one in which teacher and student are depicted as soul brothers engaged in an intense inquiry into the ultimate meaning of everything.

Whatever visions develop for the ideal university, however, vast amounts of support in money and goodwill are needed. Concerning this point, Churchman appears to be unrealistic. We simply cannot ignore the feelings of the "majority of the electorate." The electorate has yet to be convinced that universities possess divine insight into their own worthiness. Until such a day arrives, both public and private universities must temper idealism with more than just a grudging awareness of public opinion. Hypocrisy need not result. The electorate has long ago adjusted to the general fact that students and professors do not agree with many or, in the electorate's mind, most of the current political, moral, and religious convictions. The electorate will never adjust,

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however, to having these cherished beliefs treated with insolence. Nihilists are making the most of this fact. In addition, well-meaning students and faculty have too often confused the lofty concept of freedom of expression with freedom to give pointless, or even pernicious, insult and offense. To me, "performing in a manner which pleases the majority of the electorate" does not mean conforming to popular whims or beliefs, but it does mean approaching our task with dignity and understanding.

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PULSE in the City of the Future

In his article "Science and the city: The question of authority" (28 Feb., p. 902), Carroll has presented a comprehensive picture of the Department of Housing and Urban Development research activities. Also his reference 67 alluded to "HUD's most substantial technological study to date," the New Systems Study of Urban Transportation which is summarized in a HUD publication "Tomorrow's Transportation" (May 1968). Among the new technological developments suggested in the study is the Public Urban Locator Service (PULSE), a system which can automatically and rapidly report the location of many moving objects (people, vehicles, or goods), wherever they might be, to a central point where they can be rerouted if necessary to meet an emergency or changed requirements. This system could improve the functions of police operations, public transit, ambulance service, fire control, and movements of goods, to name a few.

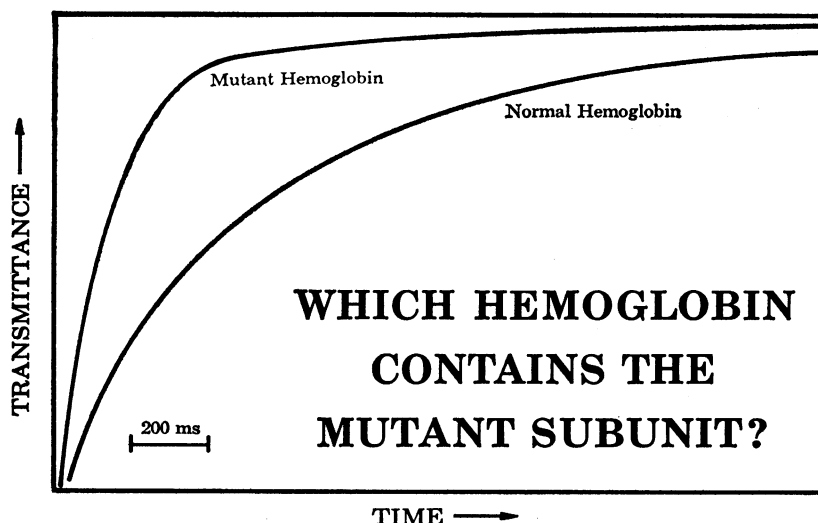
PULSE is being developed under HUD leadership, assisted by the departments of Justice, Post Office, Health, Education, and Welfare, and Transportation, the Federal Communications Commission, and private industry; and it is hoped that it can be tested in the near future. This is an example of an urban utility which can jointly serve the needs of municipal agencies, commercial interests, and private individuals and illustrates the value of HUD research in nonhousing areas.

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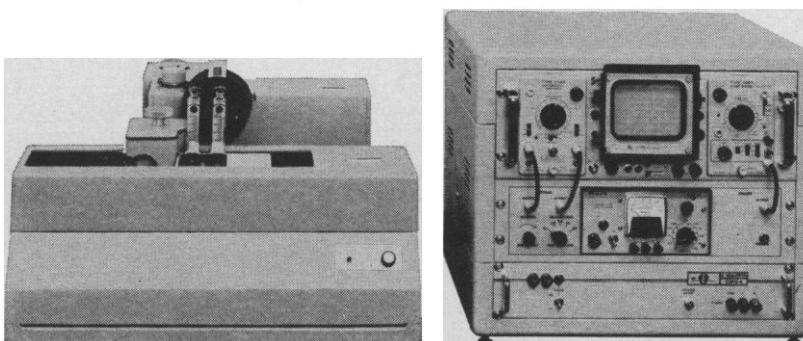


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*AS REPORTED BY HENRY F. EPSTEIN AND LUERT STRYER IN VOLUME 32 (1968) OF THE JOURNAL OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY.



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