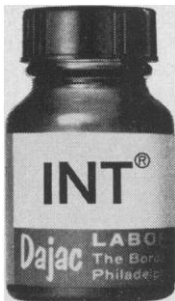


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not presented in sufficient detail to be sure. The proportion of the increased salaries to be given to officers is only 5 to 10 percent of the total increase, so is not as critical.
3. See W. L. Hansen and B. A. Weisbrod [*Quart. J. Econ.* 81, 395 (1967)] for a discussion of the implicit economic transfer from draftees to the public at large.

Arbiters of the Pesticides

Robert van den Bosch's opinion of toxicologists and chemical company sales personnel is noted (Letters, 2 May). But surely the highly trained and well-informed research and extension personnel of the many experiment stations and universities are the ones who decide what pesticides are applied, and where, in the United States. Wouldn't it be fair to state then that these people, together with the huge block of competent scientists in the USDA, "dominate" the pest control field?

... The members of the pesticide industry are painfully aware of the ecological disasters which can go hand-in-hand with their profession [see the fine paper on this whole subject by Hennberry, *Bull. Entomol. Soc. Amer.* 14, No. 3 (1968)]. To label most toxicologists and pest control salesmen as being either ignorant of or indifferent to ecological problems is foolish! These men have been trained in the biological sciences and in most, perhaps all, cases have had at least a basic course in both ecology and applied entomology. In fact to become a salesman (the term Field Technical Representative is preferred) with most reputable companies today, one must have a Ph.D. in entomology or some related field. . . .

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Does "the Gap" Really Exist?

Margaret Mead in "The generation gap" (11 Apr., p. 135) asserts, "Nowhere in the world are there any elders who know what their children know." This is the sort of craven, trumped up assertion that leads the new generation to despise their elders. In many years of the practice of medicine I have had to encounter issues of life and death and make decisions affecting them. My husband, as a war correspondent, entered Hiroshima 30 days after the bomb fell. Our children have had nothing of this kind of experience with the

real issues of life. They are content in knowing that we know far more than they and are in fact the happier for it. They are aware that their turn will come.

Mead states that all of us who grew up before the war are "immigrants in time." Of course. And so are our children, and so will be their children. For if we are not to regard life as but a treadmill, then it must be a pilgrimage with fresh encounters at every turn. The judgment upon us is the degree to which we meet these encounters with poise, courage, wit, determination, and steadfast faith. To be an "immigrant in time" is nothing new. It is common to all generations.

My husband and I and our children simply do not experience "the generation gap" and neither, I suspect, do many others. One reason is that we are one in our understanding that disappointment, sorrow, conceit, frustration are but a few among the evidences of human frailty. But there is also our common joy, which is our strength. For if human frailty is a universal . . . it can be celebrated with laughter, especially at ourselves. Laughter is a healing, conciliatory grace among all generations.

"We have to realize that no other generation will ever experience what we have experienced," Mead intones. So, history will cease to repeat itself! That is something new! How can one refute what is so obviously false?

Mead's major weakness is that she fails to take into account a radical distinction between adolescence and maturity. There are qualities in maturity that stand over, above, and beyond time, place, and culture; they are valid for all generations. To assign them a value equivalent to adolescent potherings is to betray maturity.

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Some of us who were involved in the public school education of this "new generation" might remember the group as being rather spoiled. At the time, this was somewhat understandable largely because their parents wanted them to have everything they didn't have as children. However, the very bothersome question to me now concerns the children of this rather spoiled generation. What real chance do they have?

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