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ences of nonclinic populations. Let me remind these readers (and Weissman as well) that I did not claim that all persons have optimum access to family planning. I simply questioned the need for and appropriateness of massive, class-oriented, government intervention at the clinical level—especially since there are still unexplored and unexploited resources in the private sector.

The possible "side effects" discussed in the article (such as charges of genocide and of encouraging sexual activity by teenage girls) are smoldering public issues (not personal objections, as suggested by Frank and Reynolds). When these are combined with the possibility of physiological side effects from birth control drugs, the potential explosiveness of the mixture cannot be entirely ignored. However, I do not argue that the government should hesitate to act because of a threat of this sort—if the issue is one clearly involving national welfare and requiring its resources and authority. I have argued, rather, that no one has demonstrated convincingly that family planning "deprivation" in the United States today is such an issue.

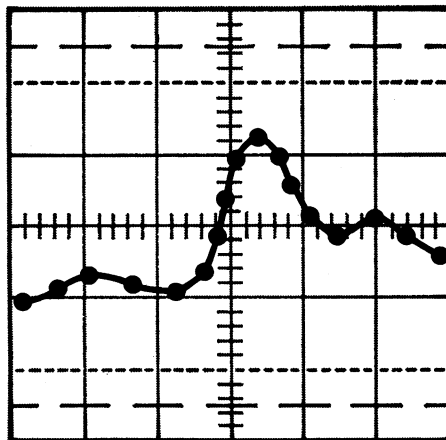
JUDITH BLAKE

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University of California,
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Social Science in the Marketplace

Willeke's letter (16 May) discusses the problem of plans developed by technical experts and subsequently "rejected by the people." He urges a better understanding of such resistance to social changes and suggests that the services of social scientists be used to implement proposals that might otherwise be rejected.

Thompson's original article (14 Mar., p. 1180) reported the defeat of a conservation plan. Willeke refers to controversies surrounding the fluoridation of municipal water supplies and the planning of freeways in urban areas. Using social scientists to help secure the adoption of proposals of these types raises important ethical issues. Should the scientist (whether "social" or "physical") make his services available to all who request it? Can social scientists adopt such a "morally neutral" position? Ten years ago I was active in several campaigns involving fluoridation of municipal water supplies. Shortly thereafter I refused to participate in a social-



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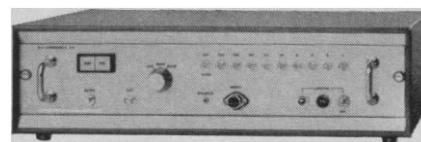
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psychological study of the reasons why scientists refuse to participate in research in chemical and biological warfare. Ten years ago I might well have offered my services to groups seeking to overcome objections to major freeway proposals. Today I would not participate in such a project. How often are such questions discussed in graduate psychology or sociology training programs or at the annual meetings of the relevant professional associations?

College students are increasingly inquiring about our society's utilization of its highly sophisticated technical skills and knowledge. Protests against war-related research have occurred on numerous campuses. Is the scientist similar to the oft-described worker on the Detroit assembly line who is concerned only about the particular operation which is his responsibility? Should he not be concerned about the end-product which results from his efforts?

Social scientists often can contribute to the understanding of complex group and individual behavior. Clearly, however, the caveats that increasingly are being raised about the uses (and misuses) of science in general apply equally to the behavioral sciences.

THOMAS F. A. PLAUT

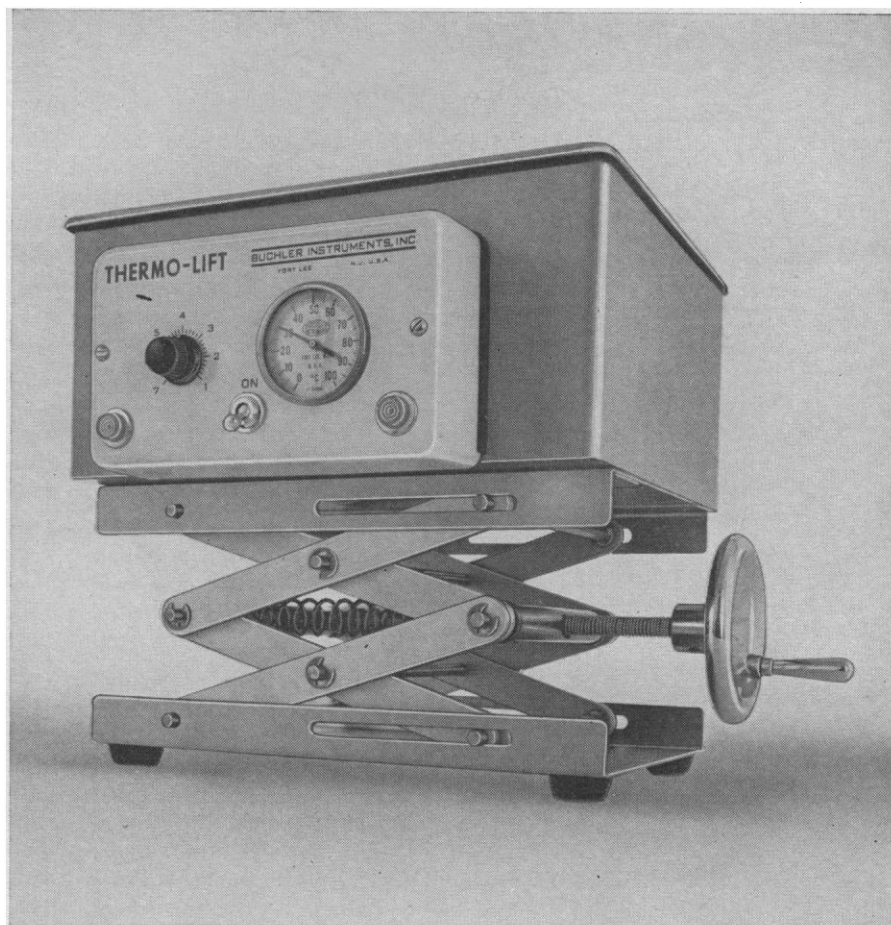
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Lysine Enrichment:

Do We Need It?

Paul B. Hamilton's letter (16 May) regarding the value of fortification of wheat with lysine was sharply critical of the Food and Drug Administration and other governmental agencies for failing to expedite a formal lysine fortification program. Hamilton failed to mention several key facets of the problem—facets which bear strongly on the wisdom of decisions on public policy in dealing with both domestic and international nutritional problems.

As a general principle, two broad types of data can justify serious consideration of enriching basic food commodities in attempting to control malnutrition. One of these consists of thorough and reliable survey data showing widespread deficiency of the nutrient in question among the population. With the B-vitamins, vitamins A and D, iron and iodine, such data were available for the United States prior to our enrichment and fortification programs for wheat, corn, and salt. Absolutely no such data indi-

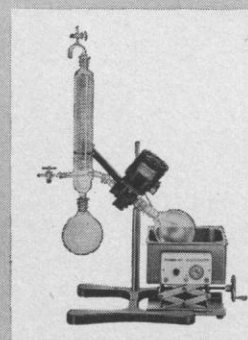


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