

## The Nature and Dignity of Man

AAAS Symposium • 28–30 December 1969 • Boston

As part of its Centennial Year, Boston University will hold a conference on *The Nature and Dignity of Man*, 28–30 December 1969. The conference will initiate a dialogue among leading life scientists, theologians, and other humanists on issues related to the social and human problems emerging from the biotechnological revolution and the heightened concern for the preservation and enhancement of the identity and dignity of man. The interdisciplinary exchange, a regularly scheduled part of the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, will consist of paired keynote addresses by natural scientists with humanistic concerns matched by addresses by theologians with scientific concerns, followed by panel discussions and workshops organized by invitations. Session I (28 Dec.) will be concerned with Control of Population and Regulation of Behavior. The two keynote speakers and the panel discussion will be followed by two concurrent workshops: Workshop A—Population Problems (control measures through food supply and contraception); Workshop B—Behavior Problems (regulatory measures through neurological intervention). Session II (29 Dec.) will be concerned with Extension of Life through Organ Replacement. The two keynote addresses and panel discussion will be followed by Workshop C—Problems of Organ Replacement. Session III (30 Dec.) also contains two keynote addresses, a panel discussion, and Workshop D—Improvement of the Quality of Life Through Genetic Manipulation. The keynote addresses will endeavor to underline the primary issues and serve as preparation for the panel discussions and workshop sessions which will consist of informal spontaneous interaction among the conference partici-

pants assembled by invitation. The interrelated findings of the three sessions, summaries of the workshops, and conclusions of the conference will be presented at an evening banquet on the final day.

Keynote speakers for the conference are Hudson Hoagland (president emeritus, Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology); Roger L. Shinn (William E. Dodge, Jr., Professor of applied christianity, Union Theological Seminary); Francis D. Moore (Moesley Professor of surgery, Harvard Medical School, and surgeon-in-chief, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital); L. Harold DeWolf (dean and professor of systematic theology, Wesley Theological Seminary); Bernard D. Davis (Adele Lehman Professor of bacterial physiology, Harvard Medical School); and James M. Gustafson (professor of christian ethics, Yale University Divinity School). Panelists will include Charles E. Curran (Catholic University); Frank Ervin (Boston University); Ernst Mayr (Harvard University); Paul Ramsey (Princeton University); David M. Hume (Medical College of Virginia); Henry K. Beecher (Massachusetts General Hospital); Hans Jonas (New School for Social Research); G. Evelyn Hutchinson (Yale University); John R. Platt (University of Michigan); Anthony Blacker (Cornell University); and Isaac Asimov.

An objective of the conference is the uncovering of researchable questions at the humanistic interface between theology and science and the stimulating of new research in the humanities in areas of social and moral relevance to our culture. The sponsors of the conference, the Boston University School of Theology and the life scientist at Boston University seek especially to stimulate research on the part of scientifically, hu-

manistically, and theologically trained scholars. The interdisciplinary discussion, it is hoped, will lead to a better understanding of the social issues and moral implications that may emerge from new biological and scientific developments and lead to a more adequate restructuring of the value orientation of the society.

Barnaby C. Keeney has well stated the concerns of the conference.

Another first-rate problem is that of interfering with what some call human destiny, and others call biological development of the human individual, which is partly the result of genetic circumstances and partly the result of accidental environmental conditions. Throughout its history that part of the population which has dedicated itself to the medical arts has systematically sought to interfere with human destiny by lengthening life and done so with the enthusiastic support of most of the population. Others, of course, have dedicated themselves to shortening human life, through crime and war.

Now it is anticipated that the next generation, and perhaps this one, will be able to interfere chemically with the actual development of an individual and perhaps biologically by interfering with his genes. We have a long history of speculation going back to antiquity on the consequences. There are first-rate ethical, moral, and philosophical implications to interfering with human development. Obviously, there would be benefits both to individuals and to society from eliminating, or at least improving mentally and physically deformed persons. On the other hand, there could be very serious consequences if this knowledge were used with premeditation to produce superior and subordinate classes, each genetically prepared to carry out a predetermined mission. . . . What happens then to free will, to democracy, and to the rights of the individual? Human destiny is a first-rate scientific, philosophical, and moral problem today. It will still be a first-rate problem when all of us are dead. [*Education to Meet a Changing Society, Centennial Lectures 1968–1969* (Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, 1969), p. 29.]

It is the hope of the arrangers of this conference to improve communication, understanding, and research on these basic human and scientific problems. The conference is unique because it approaches the life sciences as a whole; its proceedings will be geared to convincing political and social scientists, policy makers, and humanistic scholars to take a more holistic approach to the redefinition of humanistic values made necessary by behavioral, surgical, and genetic intervention.

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## Participants

Bernard Berelson (Population Council, New York City);

Alan F. Guttmacher (Planned Parenthood, World Population, New York City);

John Rock (Derry-Rock Clinic, Boston);

Melvin M. Ketchel (Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston);

Garrett Hardin (University of California, Santa Barbara);

Edward W. Pelikan (Boston University School of Medicine);

Conan Kornetsky (Boston University School of Medicine);

Richard E. Schultes (Harvard University);

G. Evelyn Hutchinson (Yale University);

Paul Deats (Boston University School of Theology);

Alan Geyer (editor, *Christian Century*);

Roger Shinn (Union Theological Seminary);

Joseph Fletcher (Episcopal Theological Seminary, Cambridge, Mass.);

Walter Muelder (Boston University School of Theology);

Paul Ramsey (Princeton University);

John Cato (Colgate Rochester Divinity School);

Arthur Dyck (Harvard University);

James Gustafson (Yale University);

Harold DeWolf (The Wesley Theological Seminary);

John Fletcher (Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia);

Preston N. Williams (Boston University School of Theology);

Hans Jonas (New School for Social Research, New York City);

Ralph Potter (Harvard University);

Tex S. Sample (St. Paul School of Theology);

J. Robert Nelson (Boston University School of Theology);

Charles E. Curran (Catholic University of America);

Keith Reemtsma (University of Utah College of Medicine, Salt Lake City);

Helen B. Taussig (Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Baltimore, Md.);

John Merrill (Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston);

William Curran (Harvard School of Public Health);

Frederick C. Steward (Cornell University);

Paul M. Doty (Harvard University);

Salvador E. Luria (Massachusetts Institute of Technology);

Edwin T. Mertz (Purdue University);

Harold P. Green (George Washington University, Washington, D.C.).

## The Behavioral and Social Sciences: Outlook and Needs

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Increased interest in the behavioral and social sciences as contributors to social problem-solving has raised a number of questions concerning the scale of social research and organizational needs both for training and research. Discussion in the legislative and executive branches of the government, as well as in the press, of national data systems, social indicators, an annual social report, and a council of social advisers all call attention to changes occurring and necessary in these fields of science if they are to be most effective.

The session is occasioned by the publication of the report of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Survey Committee, *The Behavioral and Social Sciences: Outlook and Needs* (Prentice-Hall). The Committee was jointly sponsored by the Committee on Science and Public Policy of the National Academy of Sciences and by the Committee on Problems and Policy of the Social Science Research Council. The papers, by the chairman and co-chairman of the Committee, will focus attention on the major findings of the report and its recommendations for action in the future by the federal government, the professions, universities, and others.

Arranged by Stephen Viederman (Population Council)

Chairman: Don K. Price (Dean, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University).

*Changing University Organization for Research in the Social Sciences*, Ernest R. Hilgard (Stanford University).

*Enlarging the Scale of Social Research*, Henry W. Riecken (Social Science Research Council).

Discussants: Bernard Berelson (Population Council), Joseph L. Fisher (Resources for the Future), and William Gorham (The Urban Institute).

[See *Science*, 31 Oct. 1969, page 585, for more complete details.]

Program information and registration forms for the meeting, hotels, and tours appear in the 31 October issue of *Science*. Information about Tours, Special Exhibits, Educational Exhibits, the Science Film Theater, and Musical Events appear in the 31 October issue. Reports about symposia appear in the following issues: 19 Sept., "Tektite: A Study of Human Behavior in a Hostile Environment"; 26 Sept., "Expanding Horizons in Medical Education"; 3 Oct., "Education of the Infant and Young Child"; 10 Oct., "Is There An Optimum Level of Population?," "Approaches to Policy Sciences," and "Sea-Level Panama Canal"; 17 Oct., "Quantitative Studies of Urban Problems" and "Our Food Supply"; 24 Oct., "Physiological Effects of Audible Sound," "Climate and Man," and "Rational Use of Water"; and 31 Oct., "Technology Assessment and Human Possibilities," "Pattern Perception," and "Youth: Ego-Ideals and Impact of Culture."