The Sorry State of Science

AAAS Symposium • 28-29 December • Boston



The advance of science holds forth great possibilities for the freeing of mankind from the forces of nature and social oppresssion. Yet our understanding of man and the physical world in which he lives has not been directed toward these humanistic ends. Instead, science and technology are used to strengthen militarism and to further the economic exploitation and psychological domination of the world's population. How this misuse of science and technology takes place can only be understood by considering the social and economic context within which technological advance occurs. Who develops new technology, who benefits from its use, and who pays the social costs which result from the use of such technology?

The first session of this two-part symposium will provide an analysis of the social and economic framework of technological innovation. Several case studies will be offered in support of the thesis presented. The second session will focus attention on the role of scientists and engineers in relation to the misuses of their work and abilities. The session will also explore approaches, consistent with the analysis presented, that can be taken toward directing the application of science to social needs and human welfare.

Arranged by Allen S. Weinrub (Harvard University).

28 December 1969

Who Benefits from Technological Change?, Allen S. Weinrub.

Programming the Computer Industry, Steve Cavrak (Harvard University).

Social Science and "Pax Americana," Don MacKensie (Harvard University).

Research and Priorities in the Drug Industry, Rick Paul (Harvard University).

The Space Extravaganza and the Public Interest, Steve Kaiser (M.I.T.).

Technology: Progress is Not its Most Important Product, Larry Beeferman (M.I.T.).

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The Myth of the Technologist Class, Larry Beeferman. Secret Labs and Special Interests, David Guttman (M.I.T.).

Thoughts on a Political Program for Action, Student speaker from Harvard University.

During this symposium, the audience will be encouraged to participate in discussion of the ideas and issues which are raised in the formal presentations.



450th Anniversary of the Death of Leonardo da Vinci

Arranged by Raymond J. Seeger (National Science Foundation.

28 December

Remarks, Minister Plenipotentiary Tonci Ottieri (Consul General in Boston).

The Development of Leonardo's Knowledge of the Human Body, Elmer Belt (Los Angeles, California).

A Sculpture by Leonardo, John Goldsmith Phillips (Metropolitan Museum of Art).

Leonardo as Painter, John Shapley (Howard University).

Leonardo and the Subconscious, Raymond Stites (National Gallery of Art).

On Leonardo's Physical Insights, Raymond J. Seeger. Leonardo as Military Engineer, Bern Dibner (Burndy Library, Norwalk, Connecticut).

Beginnings of Factories with a Central Source of Power, Ladislaus Reti (University of California, Los Angeles).



Mendeleev Centennial

Arranged by Leo Schubert (American University, Washington, D.C.).

29 December

Mendeleev and His Influence on Science, Anatoliy F. Dobrynin (Ambassador, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics).

Precursors and Cocursors of the Mendeleev Table, O. Theodore Benfey (Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana).

Professor T. W. Richards and the Periodic Table, James B. Conant (Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America).

The Transuranium Elements: Extension of the Periodic Table, Glenn T. Seaborg, (U.S. Atomic Energy Commission).

Periodic Properties of Nuclei and Elementary Particles, Herman Feshbach (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

Program information and registration forms for the meeting, hotels, and tours appear in the 21 November 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"; 31 Oct., "Technology Assessment and Human Possibilities," "Pattern Perception," and "Youth: Ego-Ideals and Impact of Culture"; 7 Nov., "Space Astronomy," "Science Policy and State Government," "The Nature and Dignity of Man," and "Behavioral and Social Sciences: Outlook and Needs"; 14 Nov., "School Science—Past and Future," "Power Generation and Environmental Change," and "Effects of Nutrition on Behavior"; 28 Nov., "Whither Lunar and Planetary Exploration in the 1970's," "The City as a Social System," and "Human Settlements and Environmental Design"; and 5 Dec., "Deep Sea Drilling Project," "Field Studies of Nutrition and Behavior," and "Hunger and Malnutrition."