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2) and 3) may be expected to increase.

The National Research Council should have collected the foregoing data before stating, "The evidence does not support the notion that widespread unemployment or malutilization of training and talents exists among recent doctoral graduates."

JAMES M. KALLIS

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Despite the oversupply of applicants for certain jobs in science (Editorial, 15 May, p. 781), biomathematics is one field in which demand still well exceeds the supply.

Since 1963, the biomathematics program at North Carolina State University has finished 29 postdoctoral students and granted 12 Ph.D. and 11 Master's degrees. These trainees, with one exception, had no difficulty in finding challenging, high-paying positions. Most had several opportunities from which to choose. Currently there are 6 postdoctorals and 19 predoctorals in residence. Of the 2 postdoctorals and 4 predoctorals who will complete their training within the next few months, only one has had less than two job offers; one had five. All have accepted positions at salaries that are well above average.

Many of the openings are related to ecological and other aspects of environmental science, but there is also notable demand in the pharmaceutical industry. Inquiries have been received from a variety of biological, medical, biostatistical, and biometrical as well as biomathematical groups at several universities. Capability in mathematical modeling is a prime job requisite. . . .

H. L. LUCAS, JR.

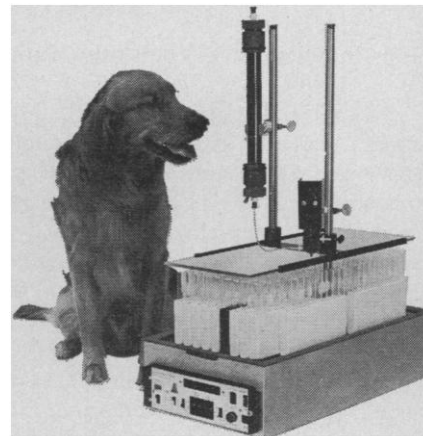
*School of Physical Sciences and
Applied Mathematics, North Carolina
State University, Raleigh 27607*

Consensus and the Collective "We"

Scientists are being systematically urged to ask their professional societies to take a stand against the war in Indo-China. I wish to point out that the avoidance of such stands is a matter of principle, not just tradition.

If a society to which I belong takes stands on nonscientific issues, it will sooner or later espouse one that is abhorrent to me, forcing me to condone it or resign. Eventually the society will

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be reduced to a small, politically single-minded group. This group will then have succeeded, intentionally or not, in suppressing all political thought except its own.

ROBERT HOOKE

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235

Computers in Printing and Indexing

Salton's excellent article "Automatic text analysis" (17 Apr., p. 335) stresses the technical feasibility of using computers to index and classify documents and indicates that computers do as good a job as manual indexers (which does not inspire confidence in the present systems used for manual indexing). However, there is no reference to the economic feasibility of automatic indexing and no mention of current or eventual cost.

Also omitted was a discussion of scale-up problems and lengthy computer runs to be expected when expanding from a small trial system with a limited number of terms and synonyms to the relatively huge thesauri needed to cover broader fields [13,535 main terms in the NASA Thesaurus; 17,810 main terms in the 1967 DOD Thesaurus of Engineering and Scientific Terms (TEST or LEX Thesaurus); 7590 main terms in the National Library of Medicine Thesaurus of Medical Subject Headings (MESH), and so forth]. It may be that consideration of these factors would have some bearing on Salton's qualified conclusion that "... there are no obvious technical reasons why manual document analysis methods should not be replaced by automatic ones."

JOHN H. SCHNEIDER

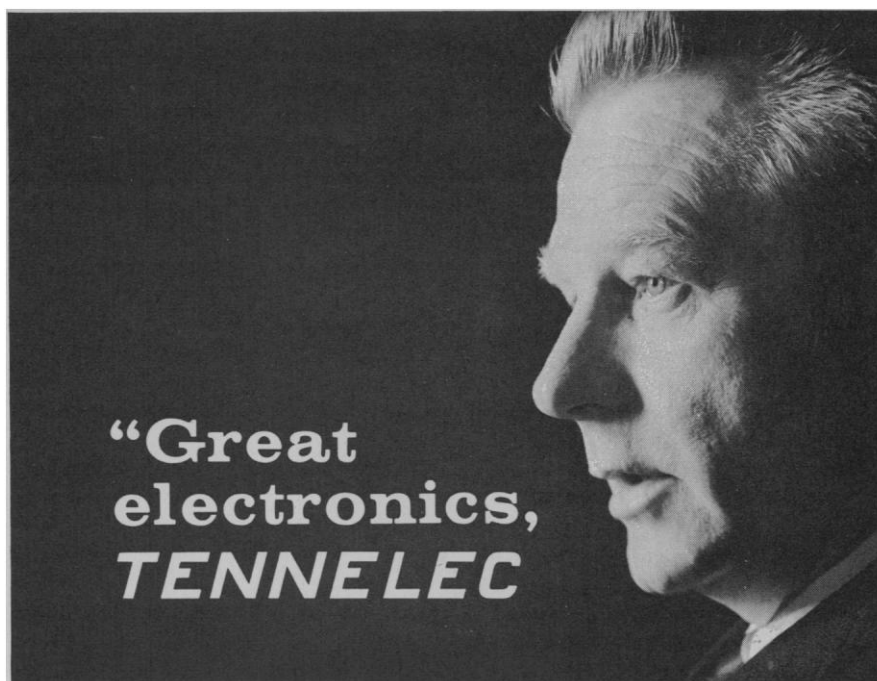
3411 Fessenden Street,
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... The significance of this work will become more evident as more text is on computer base. The British publication *Physics Abstracts* is now composed by photocomposition, and in this country both the American Chemical Society and American Institute of Physics plan to photocompose their journals. The availability of these on computer base amenable for searching offers rich fields for further automatic indexing studies. ...

JAMES D. CAPE

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Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

17 JULY 1970



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