Language Pollution

Seven years ago, in an outpouring of grief, two names of eloquence and beauty were obliterated, both simply yet powerfully evocative of mood, time, and place and both emblematic of our scientific and technological past.

One sounded of wind and sky and sea marsh and of the elusive, temporary, transient world to be found at the end of a long and (originally) slow and noisy trans-Atlantic flight—the other of conquistadors and sand, dawn over the Caribbean, and clangorous, caparisoned, metallic monsters pointing skywards. Idlewild and Cape Canaveral! One saw the development and arrival of the first, regular, land-based trans-Atlantic flights, the transition of the warplane into the civil airliner, the replacement of the piston engine by the turboprop and its replacement by the jet; the other, the initial agonizing experiments and preparation for man's eventual journey to the Moon.

It is now 1970. Man has journeyed to the Moon and Man has landed on the Moon. The hopes and aspirations of the late President Kennedy have been realized. As scientists can't we be persuaded to include in our concern for conservation a concern for language? Without in any way diminishing our respect for the late President, may we ask that these two names be restored and that "Kennedy" be reserved for the Kennedy Space Center?

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Water Vapor in the Stratosphere

In Nuessle and Holcomb's article "Will the SST pollute the stratosphere?" (26 June, p. 1562), the results of our study are quoted incorrectly. According to the results from our model of radiative, convective equilibrium of the atmosphere (*1*), the doubling of the water vapor *everywhere* in the stratosphere may increase the temperature of the earth's surface by about 0.6°C and decrease the temperature of the stratosphere by about 1.5°C provided that the change in the stratospheric water vapor does not affect the cloudiness. Our result does not apply to the situation reported by Machta in which doubling of water vapor occurs only in a narrow latitudinal belt. It should be noted that the effects of local increase of stratospheric water vapor may not be confined to the local area because of the rapid horizontal mixing of air masses due to large-scale atmospheric circulations.

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Reference

1. S. Manabe and R. T. Wetherald, *J. Atmos. Sci.* **24**, 241 (1967).

Reply from Argentina

The letter by Geschwind and several distinguished scientists (6 Mar.) in which they express their concern about "the internment without trial of many Argentinian scientists" and their appeal that "free right of contact with them of their family and friends" be permitted has caused us great concern because it describes our situation as bordering on a concentration camp. This grossly exaggerated description may give an erroneous idea of the effort made in Argentina toward scientific progress and may confuse our scientists abroad. It also affects the reputation of our scientific community as a whole and that of many of us who occupy positions in academic institutions.

Although we have had numerous problems, especially in 1966, we consider that the situation is good in relation to what occurs in other parts of this troubled world. Evidently our information is different from that of Geschwind *et al.* since at present we do not know of any scientists interned or denied the right of contact with family and friends.

We are grateful to our American colleagues for the sympathy and goodwill which prompted the writing of their letter. It is comforting to know that we may count on their help when necessary.

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