

If Sweden has had to resort to DDT to control destructive forest insects, I suspect they are not actively working on substitute materials.

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... Predator insects in a normal biotic situation, or in one unaltered to any great extent by man, are animals *useful* to man and these are known to have been destroyed by DDT and other persistent chlorinated pesticides. ...

Some animals regarded as useful to man have, in certain areas, lost their usefulness. One example is the coho salmon of Lake Michigan: in a short period during the spring of 1969 the FDA seized 35,000 pounds of these fish because they were found to contain levels of DDT dangerous to man (*Science*, 23 May 1969, p. 936). A similar situation occurred about a year ago with mackerel caught off California. What is most shocking is that because of the persistence and relative insolubility of DDT it will continue to build up in the oceans for the next decade or so even if its use were stopped today.

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### Psychologists' Preprint Plans

Constance Holden (25 Dec., p. 1385) reports statements attributed to David Grant, editor of the *Journal of Experimental Psychology*, as follows: "Grant ... says that the APA journal, the *American Psychologist*, accords virtually no space to those who wish to criticize NISP or offer alternative ways of improving the information system."

This is not the case. The *AP* has never refused to publish critical articles on the NISP program. I assume that Grant was referring to the only two manuscripts received in this office on this subject. In one case the manuscript was withdrawn by the author almost immediately after the manuscript was submitted; and in the other case, during the course of correspondence with the author, he advised me that the article would appear as an editorial in another journal and was not suitable for publication as a paper.

It would have been so easy for

Miss Holden to check the facts with the editor of the *American Psychologist* before her article was published.

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Constance Holden has made an honest attempt to capture the essence of APA's program for a National Information System for Psychology (NISP), and the opposition to it by some members of the association. ... Her errors of fact are relatively minor; for example, APA has never contemplated "computerized distribution of tape cassettes and films." Dean Kenneth E. Clark (University of Rochester, College of Arts and Sciences), chairman of APA's communications committee, can provide accurate factual material on which the reader can make his own evaluation of the program.

More distressing in her report is the dearth of positive suggestions for the improvement of the APA communications program. The program's critics, first Jane Loevinger (*Science*, 27 Feb. 1970, p. 1228), and now David Grant, seem—at least as reported—to be avoiding substantive discussion. Both display a surprising lack of knowledge of the way in which their association functions. Projects are not designed and put into action at the whim and fancy of staff members in *any* of APA's programs. In the communications program, for example, a ten-member governing committee duly elected by the council of representatives of the association reviews, criticizes, frequently initiates, and always authorizes the implementation of a project. It then continuously monitors and evaluates such projects. When major policy is involved, the issue goes to the board of directors for its decision, and all other major APA boards and committees are kept informed by briefings at their scheduled meetings.

Suggestions of dark and sinister plots (the machinations of "cabals," according to Loevinger) make titillating reading, as do denunciations of unspecified "half-witted schemes." As with most ad hominem arguments, however, neither is particularly useful in solving the manifold and important problems of scientific information exchange in psychology.

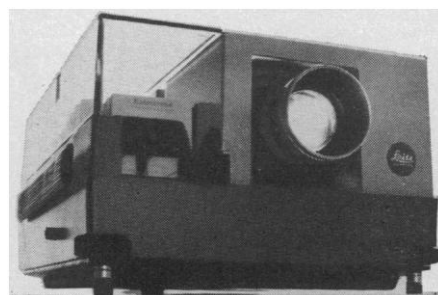
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