

end, we are urging the development of research approaches that recognize both halves of the risk-benefit ratio and which will help assess the risks that man encounters from the chemicals already widespread in his environment.

Since such research has an immediate need for application there will be many who will dub it "applied" research. However, the questions that it will answer are as fundamental to all of us as any "basic" research that could be undertaken. We need the understanding of the scientific community in seeking these crucial answers.

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I have no desire to fan the flames of an unnecessary quarrel which appears to reflect overreaction to my statements by individuals with whom I agree in general but who are very deeply wed to particular points of view. It is because I am concerned for the environment and because I appreciate the biological lessons Griffin fights that I suggested that sparing use of chlorinated hydrocarbons at minimal dosages and only for specific purposes may be wiser than total ban and replacement by other chemicals whose consequences may be yet more disastrous. Nor do I in any sense derogate the contributions or imperative requirement for directed research. My concern is that we not so furiously pursue directed research, particularly in the newly fashionable multidisciplinary mode, that we injure our efforts in fundamental research—which is still the goose laying the golden eggs.

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### Excessive Anonymity

It is well recognized that bureaucratic directives may often interfere with the proper performance of certain scientific research. Some years ago, shortly after the start of the civil rights movements, a furor was raised in the Northern press when it was learned that many, if not most, blood banks in Southern states maintained segregated donor blood supplies. The obvious reason for this segregation was that Negro blood was not to be transfused into Caucasians. The question of whether there was any scientific validity for such segregation was put to many eminent scientists in the blood banking field and

elicited a unanimous negative. The stand taken by the scientific community was that as long as proper compatibility tests are performed, it matters not one whit what the source of the blood. As a result of the notoriety given the issue, and because of the unanimity of the opinion of the scientific community, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare issued a directive forbidding segregation of donor bloods in blood banks where its control could be enforced.

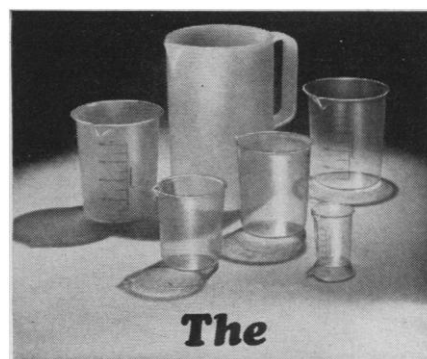
Not only was it prohibited to make note of the racial origin of the donor on the blood container, it was also prohibited to make any note of the racial origin on the blood bank records. Thus the information as to whether Jack Jones who gave blood on a certain day to a certain blood bank was Negro, Caucasian, Indian, or whatever was lost forever.

Recently, as part of a study of the genetic control of antibody specificity, I tried to collect blood samples from Negroes who had produced certain antibodies. I wrote to many blood banks in many states requesting that they send me as many Negro-derived antibody-containing blood specimens as they could. The responses have been that if a Negro individual is being investigated at this very moment, then a specimen can be sent me. Blood bank personnel cannot screen their name files of individuals possessing antibodies to determine what the racial origins of these persons might be because the information does not exist. I find the situation deplorable, for a whole line of productive research may be closed to me or, if not actually closed, I will find that entirely unnecessary obstacles have been placed in its way.

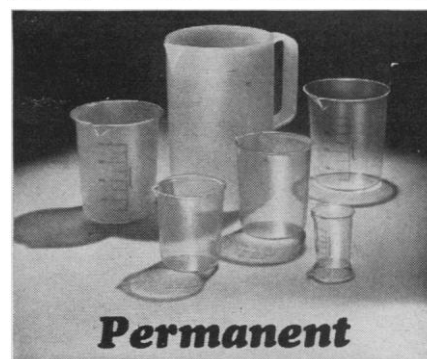
For record-keeping purposes, racial differences are just as important as differences in sex and age. In these days of egalitarian movements, isn't it possible that there are those who might protest the notation of the sex or age of a donor on his registration card? Should we act to accommodate each such protest without examining all the implications?

Our societal responsibility is not only to deal equitably and justly, but also rationally. Attempts to implement the political belief that "all men are created equal" should not mandate the prohibition of the study of the differences between men.

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