

percent of all its women. In terms of status, it leaves them concentrated at the very bottom. Nearly half of HEW's minority workers are in grades 1 to 4 and 85 percent of these are women. In terms of the officially sponsored advocacy structure, it leaves them outside.

Interviews with black women at HEW indicate that, in general, they see WAP as a program conceived by white women to promote white women's interests. As Marion E. Primus, a young, black, social science analyst detailed to the Women's Action Program from

NIMH, analyzed the situation: "You don't have a heavy concentration of blacks involved in women's action because many feel they have to deal with their blackness first. Some say: 'Hell, what good is this to me? Let me get up there where they [white women] are, first.' As a mental health professional, I am perhaps more interested in the Women's Action Program that I would be otherwise."

One of the most critical obstacles to achieving equity for HEW's women is the preconceived attitudes of both sexes

about the role of women. Expressed attitudes of men at the managerial and supervisory levels make women's rights advocates particularly angry. Estelle R. Ramey, a Georgetown University professor of physiology who occasionally addresses NIH women's meetings, related a couple of typical comments men there have made in responses to her remarks: "One man told me he never discriminates against hiring a woman in his lab," she said. "As he put it: 'I've always said you get more talent for the buck. Women are usually will-

## Briefing

### Science Censored

In *The Medvedev Papers*, a book already published in Britain and about to be printed in the United States, Zhores A. Medvedev,\* the Russian biochemist, gerontologist, and critic of the Soviet regime, writes that hundreds of foreign scientific journals are routinely censored by Soviet authorities. In particular, *Science* goes through an editing and copying process before it reaches subscribers.

After a long and ingenious experimentation with the Soviet post offices, customs bureaus, the national censorship agency (Glavlit), and other official bodies, Medvedev deduces that there exists, as there did in the days of the czars, a "Black Office" where several hundred employees doctor some 500 English, French, German, and American periodicals.

Medvedev uses *Science* as his prime example. Sometimes an entire issue is plucked from circulation. The censors also clip out articles, or paste an advertisement from a back issue over undesirable portions of the text. They purge the table of contents of offensive titles—but often forget to delete them from the quarterly index. The doctored issues are photocopied, then sent on to subscribers and libraries—as much as 7 months late. Medvedev says an office called the All-Union Institute of Scientific and Technical Information—apparently a wing of the "Black Office"—performs this surgery on each issue.

\* Z. A. Medvedev, *The Medvedev Papers: The Plight of Soviet Science Today* (Macmillan, London; St. Martin's Press, New York, in press).

(Medvedev is known to Western scientists for his work on the problems of aging and also as the author of *The Rise and Fall of T. D. Lysenko*,† the manuscript of which was smuggled from Russia and recently published in the West. In 1969 Medvedev was dismissed from his post as head of the department of molecular radiobiology at the Institute of Medical Radiology at Obninsk for ideological reasons. In June 1970, he was diagnosed by state psychiatrists as schizophrenic and confined to a medical institution, an experience he tells about in a yet unpublished manuscript, "A Question of Madness." The doctors who confined him dubbed his ailment "the Leonardo da Vinci" syndrome, or the attempt to do science and what they termed "publicism" at once. His imprisonment brought such an outcry from other scientists that he was released. He is now posted at the Laboratory of Proteins and Amino Acids at Borovsk, near Moscow.)

Soviet censorship of foreign journals is more cunning now than it was under Stalin, he says. Then "the censorship cut out what did not please it, but the rest of the scientific contents was retained for use. The approach was crude but commonsensical. Later on, there were no more such cut-up journals and I thought that this was the end of the censorship. . . . Then suddenly I discovered that . . . the censorship was not only removing certain notes with the aid of the scissors but even depriving the reader of the whole journal with all its positive scientific content, just so as not to show the censor's face. . . ."

Medvedev describes the censor's methods of "mutilating" *Science* in de-

tail, even suggesting that it is cut up and reproduced simply to keep the censors working at an even rate. He obtains four uncensored 1967–1968 issues and compares them with the censored, surrogate versions. He calls the deletions "senseless and inexplicable."

The bulk of the censored articles, he finds, are on science policy and mainly found in the "News and Comment" section. He points out that these are often critical of the U.S. government and that Soviet authorities ought to find this stance congenial instead of censoring it. He concludes simply that they don't want Soviet scientists to know just how green the grass is on the other side of the Iron Curtain. In Russia, he says, scientists are kept ignorant of the government science budget and not allowed to discuss it openly.

Also censored are other innocuous items such as the "Association Affairs" section reporting on the internal business of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and two paragraphs from a book review on psychology in which the term "scientific materialism" is used.

Medvedev says flatly that government censorship of *Science* and other journals is retarding Soviet science and worsening the "chronic" lag between Soviet science and that of other countries.

At the present time, among the 160,800 addressograph plates that are used to send *Science* out each week, 39 are addresses inside the Soviet Union, and one of these is that of Comrade Medvedev. But as he has now told us, the *Science* mailed from Washington and the *Science* which (sometimes) reaches his doorstep are two, rather different, publications.—D.S.

† Columbia Univ. Press, New York, 1969.