

26 December

Role of Aggression in Human Adaptation

The purpose of the symposium will be to consider the role of aggression in human adaptation from the perspective of several related disciplines. This approach differs from that of previous symposia which considered aggression as it is related to war and violence.

After discussing various theories on the evolution and development of human aggressiveness, efforts will be directed toward bringing together and correlating the findings in the fields of psychiatry, psychoanalysis, anthropology, sociology, and the humanities.

There will be six on the panel, in-

cluding the program arranger Jacob A. Arlow. Three members will each present a 20- to 30-minute paper: Edward Joseph (Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York City) will report on "The role of aggression in character formation and choice of social role." David Hamburg (Stanford University) will talk about "Current research on evolutionary and developmental origins of human aggressiveness." Lionel Trilling (Columbia University) will discuss the sublimation and social institutionalization of aggression in the arts. The precise title is not yet available.

Each presentation will be followed by a discussion period led by Jacob Arlow, Emily Mumford (Mt. Sinai Medical College), and Eli Marcowitz (Jefferson Medical College). The audience will be invited to participate in the discussion.

The material to be presented should be appealing to a wide range of disciplines, especially to psychologists, psychoanalysts, sociologists, anthropologists, educators, and others involved in the humanities. The symposium is being sponsored jointly with the American Psychoanalytic Association.

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30 December

Encounter Groups

Encounter groups have become a definite part of our society in the last few years. From a scientific point of view, they are somewhat unique, giving an intense, emotional, interpersonal experience in a restricted time or place which is not supposed to have any consequences for the interaction of those people at a later time. Early interest in encounter groups has been mostly directed toward their claims of helping people, of achieving definite results; the argument has been mainly about some concrete results to be obtained.

The groups, however, present a scientific problem in their own right. The really intense interaction within a short time makes them a convenient laboratory for understanding behavior of individuals under conditions of strong emotion, sudden effect, and aggression, and also the development of interaction under those conditions. Further, the fact of their recent popularity is an important datum for the social scientist who has to consider why this kind of interaction has been occurring so recently, whether it corresponds to a

need in the human being, and how those needs have been satisfied in other times.

The two parts of the symposium will consider (i) the encounter group as a locus for research on individual interaction, and (ii) the encounter groups as a symptom of current society. At first the encounter group will be considered as a system in its own right, and its effect on its members will be studied; then, it will be considered as part of a larger society.

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27-30 December

Value and Knowledge Requirements for Peace

Effective constructive action is necessary to reduce the incidence of violence, to develop alternatives to violence, or to make peaceful change possible. For the past quarter of a century the bulk of the investment in research and development has been associated with military force. Today there is an urgent need to delineate the value and knowledge requirements for the pursuit of a strategy of peace and security by other than military means. This symposium is an initial step in a longer range effort to create a coherent culture of constructive action for peace by (i) a systematic survey of the

knowledge presently available with which to design a strategy of peace; (ii) by examining both the potential and the limitations of instrumentalities other than force; (iii) by assessing institutional deficiencies which, if overcome, would enhance the prospects for constructive action; (iv) by identifying serious gaps in knowledge, and defining the perimeters of research and development, relevant to the pursuit of a strategy of peace by nonmilitary means; and (v) by making reliable information about the resource requirements for the strategy available to the public.

The undertaking is guided by two

basic premises: (i) that while we may not now know what is required for peaceful change, it is knowable by sustained effort, and (ii) that the search for essential knowledge and value orientation cannot be limited to one discipline, one group, or one nation. What must we know for effective constructive action to secure peace? What must we know about men as they are and would become; about the role of technology and institutional processes in collective action; about modes of cooperation, competition, and conflict; about diverse perceptions of the world environment and the situations in which men act and about the bounds and limits of constructive action?

The symposium begins with an examination of the "state of man and