prised to find that scientists could disagree among themselves as much as lawyers do . . ." the disagreements in the main were over trans-scientific, not scientific, questions.

This does not mean that all questions underlying establishment of emission standards are trans-scientific; as Wade points out, the concentration of 2,4,5-T in food chains is a bona fide scientific question that science is proficient in answering. But I must stress that where low-level effects are concerned, there will always be a trans-scientific residue. To decide on standards when science can say neither yea nor nay requires some procedure other than the one usually used by scientists in resolving bona fide scientific questions. Some version of an adversary procedure, whether formal, as in the licensing of a nuclear reactor, or informal, as described in Wade's report, probably is the best we now have for resolving the trans-scientific questions that underlie so many of the conflicts between science and technology, and society.

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We have just returned from another inspection of the impact of war on the environment of Indochina, where the following situation came to light. Its gravity is reinforced by EPA Administractor Ruckelshaus's recent decision that public health considerations demand the maintenance of severe restrictions on the use of 2,4,5-T.

After the laudable suspension of the use of the military antiplant agent Orange (a mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T) last year (News and Comment, 24 Apr. 1970, p. 453), there remained unused in South Vietnam some 5.2×10^6 liters of Orange containing about 3×10^6 kilograms of 2,4,5-T, enough to treat over 200,000 hectares at standard military dose rates. We received conflicting reports as to whether the United States or South Vietnam currently has legal jurisdiction over this material.

Although the application of all antiplant agents in South Vietnam by U.S. armed forces was officially suspended in early May of this year, the South Vietnamese armed forces continue to apply them. The South Vietnamese currently employ agents White (a mixture of 2,4,-D and picloram) and Blue (dimethyl arsinic acid), but it is our fear that the stores of Orange will also be used by them in the future. Our attempts to obtain clarification of this potentially serious situation met with frustration. An official spokesman for the South Vietnamese armed forces refused to comment. An official spokesman for the U.S. Embassy limited himself for the record to the statement that these unused stores of Orange "had not been forgotten." Unofficially, he commented that he wished he knew of a ready means of disposal for them. Finally, an official spokesman for the U.S. Military Assistance Command informed us in no uncertain terms that the Orange was the property of the Vietnamese government, that it was their country, and that they could employ it if, when, and as they wished.

It would be the height of bureaucratic nearsightedness for our government not to cut through any necessary red tape in order to have the remaining Orange destroyed before it is too late. The 21.9×10^6 kilograms of 2,4,5-T contained in the Orange, with which we inundated South Vietnam between 1962 and 1970, were applied prior to a knowledge of the medical (toxic and teratogenic) dangers; they are now known.

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Lindsay's Record

In Bazell's report on health research in New York City (News and Comment, 17 Sept., p. 1108) I was quoted as saying: "[Mayor] Lindsay is a typical liberal arts major who flunked science in prep school, so now he doesn't like scientists."

That statement looks harsher in print than it sounded or was intended when spoken—in hyperbole and in illustration of another point.

For all I know, John V. Lindsay may have had high marks in science at prep school; in political science, he undoubtedly led his class. As for his relations with scientists, his friends in New York count upon him to lead the way to change in the national political arena away from the anti-intellectualism that blights the support of science from Washington today.

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