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before committees at all levels of government. Mrs. Benson serves on a number of national committees and has testified before many congressional committees. Mrs. Benson and the League of Women Voters have been honored by the President of the United States.

If all the members of the State Department's committee are as unaware as the one who referred to Mrs. Benson, then the committee is in trouble. But there is still a ray of hope—one of its members is Lucy Benson.

KORENE HAUSMAN

253 South Kellner Road,
Columbus, Ohio 43209

The critical reference to Mrs. Benson was an erroneous statement, corrected in the following issue of Science (5 Nov., p. 576).—EDITOR

Acknowledgment

Since a recently published review in *Science* was highly flattering to my book *Science in American Society: A Social History* (Knopf, 1971), I owe it to readers to make the following facts known. It has, within the past few days, come to my attention that in many cases where I indicated in footnotes that a particular section was "based on" another work, far too many of the words, as well as the ideas, of the cited author were used. In one case, there are as many as 55 consecutive words; in others there are sentences, parts of sentences, or key phrases that are actually the same as those used by the author cited. The cases I have found of direct quotation and of paraphrase that I consider close enough to be a violation of professional standards come to a total of just over eight pages in my book. . . .

To first cite as a major source the author of a still current book, who, in many cases, would be a likely reviewer of my book, and then to deliberately steal from him, would require a degree of naiveté much greater than mine. . . . After searching my files and the books cited, I have reconstructed what happened. In each case, the sequence of events was the same. I had read the work previously as part of my general reading, without taking notes. After writing a draft of the relevant chapter, I decided that it would be strengthened by the addition of a more detailed account of some portion of what I had read in that work. I then went back



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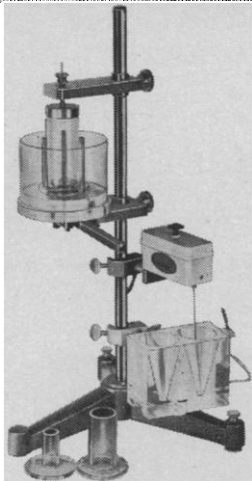
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SCIENCE, VOL. 175

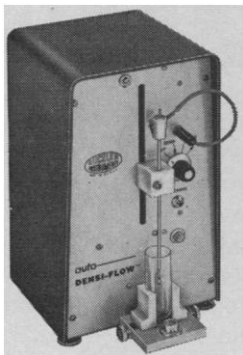
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and reread the section very carefully, took a few notes on it, and then from my notes at once proceeded to write my own section. In most cases, I had already gone to most of the sources cited and already had them incorporated in my draft. This will be evident to one who will compare my account (p. 312) of H. Edwin Mitchell's 1918 report with that of Lawrence A. Cremin in *The Transformation of the School* (p. 195), for I give certain details that are not found in Cremin.

When I wrote my own section, far from simply reporting on Cremin's work, and that of the others, as I thought I had been doing, I was actually reproducing parts with the help of brief notes and the fresh reading. I have certainly been aware that I had an extraordinary ability to remember material when I wanted to, but I have never before realized that I did it unconsciously. While it may appear incredible—and I confess it appears so to me—that an experienced researcher could be so completely unaware of his own thinking processes, I can only say that the occasion to find out about myself has never arisen before, for none of my other work has been based to any extent on secondary sources.

Naturally, I was filled with consternation and regret when I discovered what I had done. I would like to express once again my indebtedness to these scholars, not only for the material cited but for the value in general that their work has had for me (numbers in parentheses refer to the pages in my book where the material was used):

Lawrence A. Cremin, *The Transformation of the School* (Vintage Books, 1964), pp. 185–86, 195–96 (310–13); A. Hunter Dupree, *Science in the Federal Government: A History of Policies and Activities to 1940* (Harper Torchbooks, 1964), pp. 151 (269), 135 (267–68); William H. Goetzmann, *Army Exploration in the American West, 1803–1863* (Yale University Press, 1959), pp. 320 (183–84), 308 (185); Brooke Hindle, *The Pursuit of Science in Revolutionary America, 1735–1789* (University of North Carolina Press, 1956), pp. 250–51 (127–28); Robert G. McCloskey, *American Conservatism in the Age of Enterprise* (Harvard University Press, 1951), pp. 26–28 (259–61).

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