

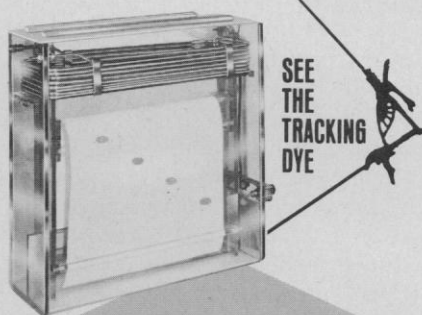
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so that they are trouble-free, but easy to repair if necessary. We have also learned lessons from Skylab about man's ability to react quickly and effectively to rapidly changing phenomena, to recognize and explore the unexpected, and to improve upon operating procedures with the accumulation of experience. The presence of scientists in space will prove valuable in reducing the complexity and cost, while increasing the reliability, of sophisticated experiments.

We hope that human achievement and social progress are "near and dear to the American people." In the past, they have generally been linked with pioneering exploration of new frontiers and with the accepting of challenges that go beyond the struggle for material comfort and luxury. History now brings us face to face with the next great frontier. Can we turn our backs on it and still preserve our humanity? In the words of Arthur C. Clarke, "The challenge of the great spaces between the worlds is a stupendous one; but, if we fail to meet it, the story of our race will be drawing to a close. Humanity will have turned its back upon the still untrodden heights and will be descending the long slope that stretches, across a thousand million years of time, down to the shores of the primeval sea" (3).

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References

1. *Economic Report of the President, 1973* (Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1973).
2. National Science Foundation-National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Solar Energy Panel, *Solar Energy as a National Resource* (Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Maryland, College Park, 1973).
3. A. C. Clarke, *The Promise of Space* (Harper & Row, New York, 1968), p. 314.

A Reasonable Deduction

Based on my measurements of the cover photograph of the bee sting (20 July) I have concluded that it cannot be properly termed a microphotograph, as described. The dimensions were 22.9 × 19.2 centimeters. In terms of human dimensional perspective, I would suggest that it be most properly classified as a macrophotograph.

However, having a relative concept of the actual size of the bee sting, and the procedures and steps required to produce the enlarged image for the cover, it would logically follow that the

photograph should be classified as a photomicrograph. Continuing further on a logical course, and through reasonable deductions from the above information, the cover photograph would most correctly be characterized as a macrophotograph of a photomicrograph.

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Agricultural Research Policies

While I share the concern expressed by Nicholas Wade (News and Comment, 18 May, p. 719) at the meager support given social science by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, I doubt whether any conceivable research in that field could have softened the disastrous impact on both rural and urban life of official policies. To accomplish this would have required an effective scrutiny of our entire system of values. On the whole, policy tends to influence research rather than vice versa.

I can testify that official policy has been involved. In 1945 the respected chief of agricultural extension in a southern state told me of his distress. "Until recently," he reported, "our instructions have been to do all in our power to aid the family farm. Now we are ordered to encourage the large, heavily financed and mechanized operation."

Yet at that time the family farm of moderate acreage was not beyond redemption. One of the Memphis newspapers had under way a campaign to encourage the small farmer by various means, including awards at an annual dinner. At the second of these dinners, the publisher chided his aides, saying that the well-dressed, prosperous guests were not the ones he wished to help. To his astonishment he learned that they were the same families that had been present the previous year.

Another experience in 1945 was instructive. This took place in a rich, cotton-growing area. Field workers lived in cabins without gardens, poultry, or other means of subsistence beyond wages. Land was plowed and planted up to the edges of the cabins. A friendly planter told me he was experimenting with cotton-picking machinery, remarking that, while cotton was selling for around 30 cents a pound, he intended to make money if it went down to 12 cents.

When I asked him what would hap-