

provide the funds (the county officials) and with other important dispensers of similar services (local physicians, and so forth). Antagonizing these elements, regardless of the correctness or brilliance of the ideas, almost always leads to failure. Successful people in community mental health, the Peace Corps, and VISTA (as well as in many other systems, such as universities) have had to learn these skills, or find other tasks which do not demand such patience, tact, and diplomacy, or find other situations in which they may be more insulated from their deficiencies in these areas. Even if the idea is right, the proper timing and necessary community support must be there or the idea must wait. (One can also learn that despite one's expertise sometimes the idea itself is *not* right and one's own judgment needs to be modified by others. It is a good, humbling, enriching experience.)

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Constance Holden's allegation that the resistance to change is stronger in small rural communities is unsupported. Her report suggests that the medical community of Franklin County rejected Reding's ideas; the fact may be that they rejected Reding's personality and approach—not his ideas.

I have been deeply involved in setting up life-style clinics for the poor in four northern counties including Franklin County. Our services include well-child care, preventive dentistry, family planning through Planned Parenthood, nutritional advice, and transportation to and from the clinic. All services are provided without charge to the patient. Evaluation of preschool children is carried out by nurse-pediatricians. These clinics represent a radical change in health care delivery.

We have opened one clinic in Franklin County and plan very shortly to open another in Hogsburg, New York, a village on the St. Regis Indian Reservation. Contrary to Holden's statement concerning resistance to change, we have found the physicians of Franklin County extremely cooperative. Our efforts have been spearheaded by Barbara Maguire, coauthor with Reding of the report of his experiment published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (1).

I admire Reding's work very much.

I believe he has made a major contribution. Certainly his work deserves careful scrutiny by others in the psychiatric field. Nonetheless, it seems quite clear that Holden's conclusions are not at all supported by facts. It appears that Reding was not rejected by the establishment, but rather his rejection may have been an autoimmune phenomenon initiated by his treatment of other physicians.

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#### References

1. G. R. Reding and B. Maguire, *N. Engl. J. Med.* **289**, 185 (1973).

#### Scientists as Economists

The controversy which has developed about Forrester's world model (Letters, 22 June, p. 1236) interests and surprises me. One would gather from some critics, in *Science* and elsewhere, that Forrester and his colleagues had performed a positive disservice to mankind, and to the free world in particular, by publishing their results. In my view, any attempt to make a national or a world model which will enable us to assess, however imperfectly, the possible future, is of immense value.

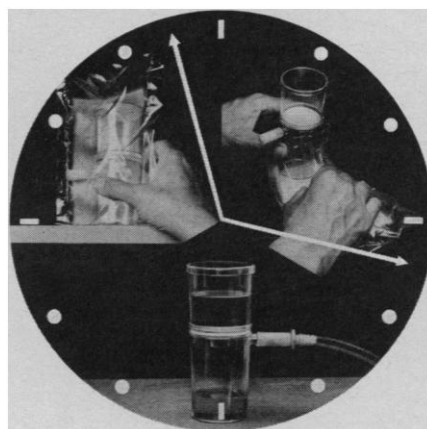
Keynes showed the governments of the world how to avoid the full consequences of deep economic depression. No one has yet shown how the vicious effects of the present inflation, which is playing havoc with the economies of all the democratic world, may be reversed or softened. And it is this rapid decrease in the value of money which has brought penury to science, as well as insuperable problems to governments. For most of us, the real standards of living are falling. No effort to understand why is wasted.

I suggest that if more scientists interested themselves in these complex economic questions, instead of leaving them to accountants and financiers, a growing ability to develop measures which would stabilize economies would inevitably develop. Techniques which led to the present worldwide economic mess are not necessarily those which will lead to a solution.

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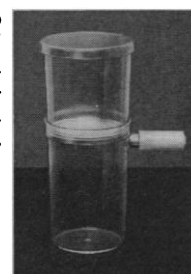
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