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## ENERGY: Use, Conservation, and Supply

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ance as well. Jefferson advocated public higher education for those who had the "interest, competence, and *character*," to profit from it—a standard closely tied to his view of public service. While qualities of intellect may be easier to judge than qualities of character, both judgments are essential to the determination of merit.

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## Green Revolution: Just or Unjust?

Nicholas Wade's report on high-yielding varieties of rice and wheat "Green revolution (I): A just technology, often unjust in use" (*News and Comment*, 20 Dec. 1974, p. 1093), while it can hardly be called biased, can't be called balanced either. I suppose every one of the thousands of new technological innovations in agriculture that have occurred since man emerged from his hunting status in the forest has tended to favor those who already have in hand the most capital to make the innovations. To argue on these grounds that the innovations should not be made leads to the absurd conclusion that *Homo sapiens* should never have evolved, for technological innovation is what distinguishes man as a species.

Of course the distribution of income is a major problem. But perhaps social scientists need to give more attention to solving that problem and less to lamenting the social-justice consequences of increasing productivity. The problem has been around a long time; it's not unique to the green revolution. I haven't run a poll, but I doubt if very many economists would agree that the green revolution is bad.

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## U.S. Grain Production

Although I am not a vegetarian, it seems to me that the crux of the problem of protein production is in the growing taste of the affluent nations for meat (U.S. annual meat consumption increased from 55 to 115 pounds