

over space (justifiably demanding that the behavior of the whole population during a certain incident be taken into account), but as far as the individual development of the behavior of bees over time is concerned, he has barely touched some isolated incidents in a dynamic continuum.

R. ROSIN\*

Department of Zoology,  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem,  
Jerusalem, Israel

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\* Present address: 16 West 82 Street, New York 10024.

#### Political Decision

Recent history suggests that, rationalism and "objectivity" notwithstanding, scientists are at least as politically gullible as anyone else. In 1931 Sir Julian Huxley visited the Soviet Union and returned to England to publish *A Scientist among the Soviets* (1), praising "the elevation of science and scientific method to its proper place in the affairs" of that country. In 1949 he felt obliged to recant in *Soviet Genetics and World Science* (2), a book written in defense of "that freedom of the intellect which we fondly imagined had been laboriously won during the past three or four centuries." A reading of Medvedev's *Rise and Fall of T. D. Lysenko* (3) makes it very plain that there was no fundamental change in Soviet society during this period; the crushing of intellectual freedom was an inevitable

consequence of ideological totalitarianism. One hopes the sad saga of H. J. Muller's sojourn in the Soviet wilderness has not been forgotten, nor J. B. S. Haldane's ultimate resignation from his beloved Communist Party in protest of Lysenkoism. Yet, human nature being what it is, scientists continue to seek utopias in improbable places. I have not been to Cuba, but on reading the letter from Ellis, Levitt, and Fausto-Sterling (27 Dec. 1974, p. 1159) I felt an overwhelming sense of déjà-vu: once again the United States, and the United States alone, is hindering the realization of paradise on Earth in a revolutionary Socialist state.

We may all praise the Cuban revolution if it has indeed stimulated science there, but that is not all that it has done, and at any rate mere numbers are no indication of intellectual climate, as Russia's record shows. The price of the revolution is being paid, most immediately by the prisoners behind barbed wire on the Isle of Pines and elsewhere (are there any scientists among them?), but ultimately, perhaps, by all the Cuban people under a regime which subordinates human freedoms to the state ideology. I hope readers of *Science* will keep this in mind while pondering the appeal for support from the scientific community for an end to the blockade. This is a political decision with many consequences, of which improvement in scientific communication may be one of the least important. I hope readers who are impressed by the figures concerning women and minorities in Cuban science will balance them against the ruthless persecution of homosexuals reported even by observers favorably disposed toward the new Cuban society (4). As for the ideal of international cooperation embodied in the charters of the United Nations and Unesco, I will take Ellis *et al.* more seriously when they publicly denounce the Castro regime's complicity in the unprecedented subversion of those ideals by the Third World when it read Israel out of Unesco in 1974.

ARTHUR SHAPIRO

Department of Zoology, University of California, Davis 95616

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