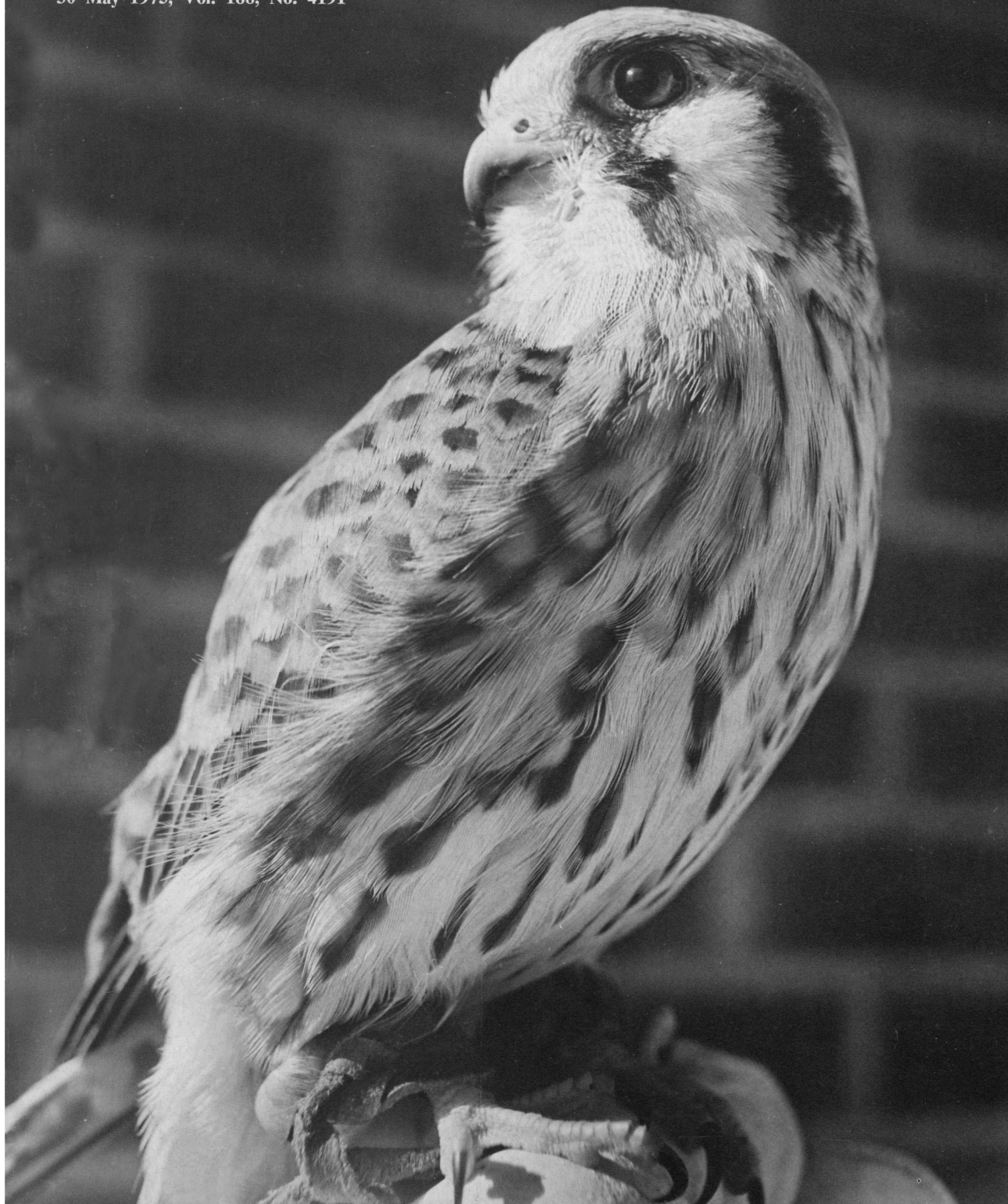


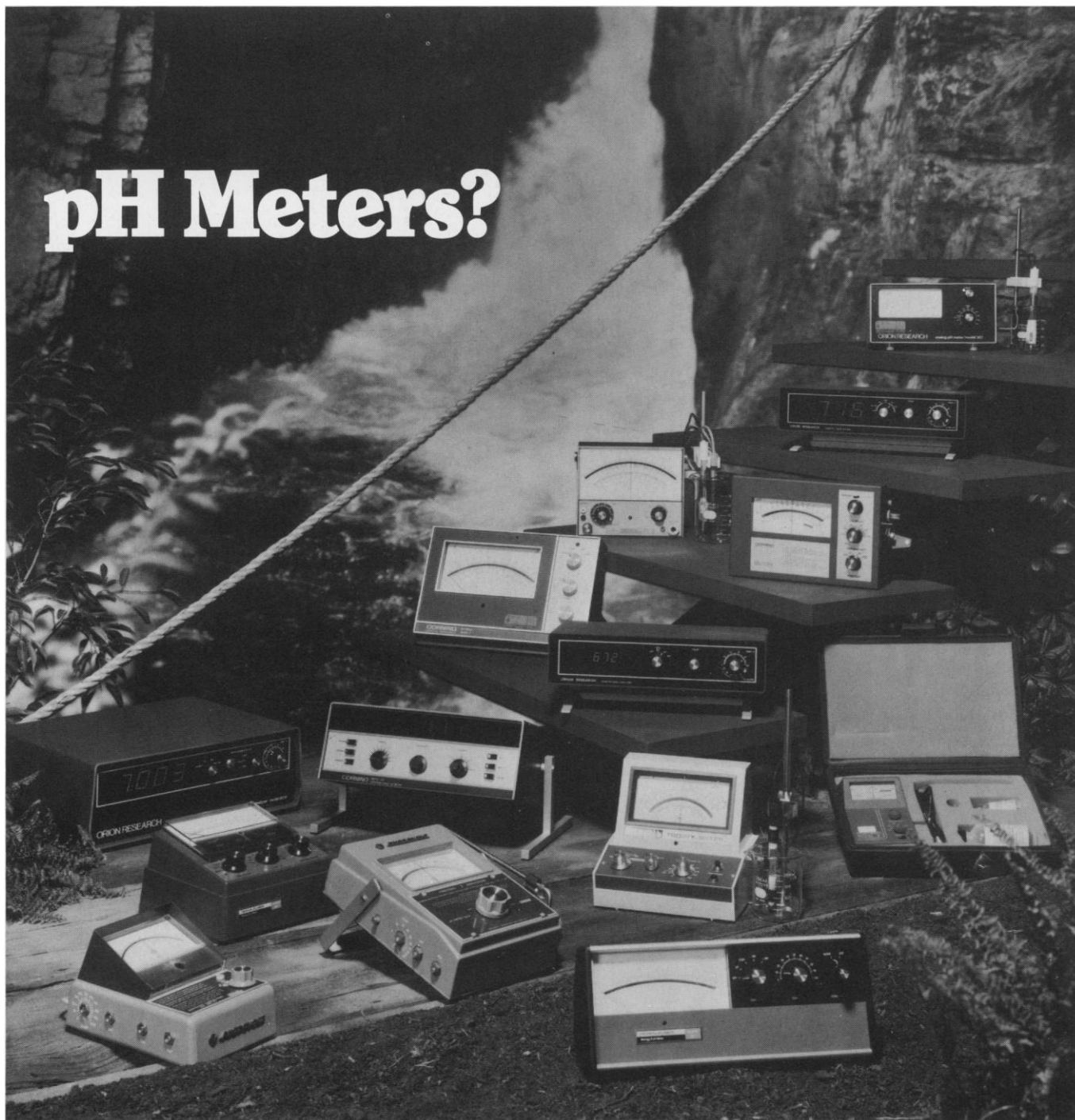
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30 May 1975, Vol. 188, No. 4191



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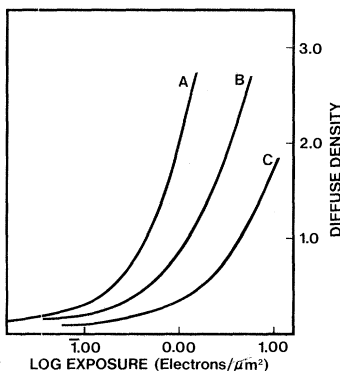
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Volume 188, No. 4191

SCIENCE

LETTERS	Coal Price Regulation: <i>K. O. Corley</i> ; Iranian-American Cooperation: <i>G. B. Koelle</i> ; Copyright and Public Domain Policy: <i>C. J. Benjamin</i> ; <i>W. T. Knox</i> ; <i>N. L. Henry</i> ; Quantifiable Quality: <i>L. S. Nelson</i>	886
EDITORIAL	Energy and the Shape of Society	889
ARTICLES	Evolution of Organelles and Eukaryotic Genomes: <i>L. Bogorad</i>	891
	Genetic Dissection of Behavior in <i>Paramecium</i> : <i>C. Kung et al.</i>	898
	Acoustic Microscopy: Biomedical Applications: <i>R. A. Lemons</i> and <i>C. F. Quate</i>	905
NEWS AND COMMENT	Nuclear Proliferation: India, Germany May Accelerate Its the Process	911
	Nozzle Enrichment for Sale	912
	Stanley Hathaway: The Senate Looks at a Controversial Nominee	914
	NSF Violations of Personnel Code Alleged	915
	OECD: Report on Research System Says the Honeymoon Is Over	916
	Now, a Draft Sea Law Treaty—But What Comes After.	918
RESEARCH NEWS	Diabetes (III): New Hormones Promise More Effective Therapy.	920
	Foundations of Mathematics: Ties to Infinite Games	923

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BOOK REVIEWS	Last of the Naturalists, reviewed by C. Albritton; Chromosomes and Cancer, P. S. Gerald; Human Memory, T. Shallice; Transport Phenomena in Aqueous Solutions, D. C. Douglass	925
REPORTS	Light Flashes Observed by Astronauts on Skylab 4: L. S. Pinsky et al.	928
	Binary Pulsar PSR 1913 + 16: Model for Its Origin: H. M. Van Horn et al.	930
	Laser Raman Spectroscopy—New Probe of Myosin Substructure: E. B. Carew, I. M. Asher, H. E. Stanley	933
	<i>Pseudomyrmex nigropilosa</i> : A Parasite of a Mutualism: D. H. Janzen	936
	Latent Infection of Sensory Ganglia with Herpes Simplex Virus: Efficacy of Immunization: R. W. Price et al.	938
	Stimulation-Produced Analgesia: Development of Tolerance and Cross-Tolerance to Morphine: D. J. Mayer and R. L. Hayes	941
	Thick and Thin Filaments in Postmitotic, Mononucleated Myoblasts: H. Holtzer et al.	943
	Tetanus Toxin: Direct Evidence for Retrograde Intraaxonal Transport: D. L. Price et al.	945
	Cell Surface Differences in Ducts from Cancerous and Noncancerous Human Breasts: E. Spring-Mills and J. J. Elias	947
	Retinal Degeneration Associated with Taurine Deficiency in the Cat: K. C. Hayes, R. E. Carey, S. Y. Schmidt	949
	Moving Visual Phantoms: A New Contour Completion Effect: P. Tynan and R. Sekuler	951
	Hawks Select Odd Prey: H. C. Mueller	953
	Learning: Rapid Aversive Conditioning in the Gastropod Mollusk <i>Pleurobranchaea</i> : G. J. Mpitsos and S. D. Collins	954
	Technical Comments: Acidity in Rainwater: Has an Explanation Been Presented?: L. Newman; G. E. Likens and F. H. Bormann	957

RUTH M. DAVIS WARD H. GOODENOUGH	FREDERICK MOSTELLER CHAUNCEY STARR	WILLIAM T. GOLDEN Treasurer	WILLIAM D. CAREY Executive Officer
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"Baby," a tamed American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Female, 4 ½ years old, owned by Michael Johnson, Reston, Virginia. See page 953. [Eric Poggenpohl, *Science*]

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LETTERS

Coal Price Regulation

Sunderland's letter about the cost of fuel (18 Apr., p. 204) contains a distressing suggestion that the price of coal be regulated. If one wants to encourage an increase in coal production (which certainly seems to be in the national interest), the surest and quickest way is to permit such production to be as profitable as possible. High profits in relation to the risks involved will attract new capital and vigorous new competition. The resulting increased supply will, through the normal forces of the market, reduce the price of coal.

From the standpoint of the national interest, an even more important result of increasing coal production would be to reduce our dependence on foreign energy, which might even drive down the price of oil. Rather than controlling prices and reducing profitability of coal mining, thus discouraging new investment, our federal energy policy should be directed toward increasing profitability. The entrepreneurs will see to the rest. Besides, who needs another bureaucracy?

K. O. CORLEY

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Iranian-American Cooperation

Constance Holden's article (News and Comment, 11 Apr., p. 128) on recently instituted agreements between the Iranian government and several American universities for the establishment of centers for higher education and research in Iran implies that this is a new trend resulting from the upsurge of the oil economy. This is not so. The Shiraz school, referred to in passing in her article, is Pahlavi University, where all teaching has been conducted in English since 1961. At that time, the Shah entered into an agreement with the University of Pennsylvania for the development of a modern, American-type university, with initial emphasis on the colleges of medicine, engineering, and arts and sciences. The site selected was Shiraz, a relatively small, venerable, but modern, city which had the advantages of a previously established university, an adequate water supply, and the presence of Nemazee Hospital, which had just been built on spacious grounds immediately adjacent to the medical school. In addition to several Islamic mosques, Shiraz has a Zoroastrian temple, a synagogue, and a Christian church.

During the first 10 years of the Pahlavi-Pennsylvania contract, there was an exten-

sive exchange of faculty for individual periods of from 6 months to 2 years. Faculty exchange has been reduced as departments at Pahlavi have become manned increasingly by well-qualified Iranians, but it has by no means been terminated. An active exchange program is about to be initiated with Pahlavi's School of Dentistry.

Pahlavi University's progress as a research center extends well beyond what Holden's article implies. For the past 6 years it has hosted an annual International Medical Congress. These have been attended by considerable numbers of physicians from Iran and nearby eastern countries, as well as by sizable representations from Europe and this country. Last fall, Shiraz was selected by the International Brain Research Organization as the site for an international workshop in neurosciences. The condition of the research equipment at Pahlavi is about the same, and can be just as frustrating, as anywhere else.

While Iran may still be 70 percent illiterate, just a few years ago the figure was approximately 90 percent. Through a remarkably well-organized program of teaching in the villages, this trend toward literacy will certainly continue. Every encouragement should be given to the currently expanded, but by no means new, programs of Iranian-American educational cooperation. Among other things, Iran can undoubtedly become increasingly a major stabilizing force toward the preservation of peace in the Middle East.

GEORGE B. KOELLE

Pahlavi-Pennsylvania Academic Advisory
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School of Medicine, University of
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Copyright and Public Domain Policy

Nicholas Henry's article: "Copyright: Its adequacy in technological societies" (13 Dec. 1974, p. 993) can lead the uninformed and unwary reader into a thicket of misinformation and dubious conclusions. I will comment only on the several inaccuracies in his discussion of the public domain policy—which seems to him to mean public policy on copyright in publications of the U.S. government. (Actually, any published work, whether produced privately or by a public agency, that is not protected by copyright is in the public domain.)

Henry stretches his initial point untenably in asserting that Section 8 of the Copyright Act of 1909 is an outstanding recognition of the inadequacy of copyright in a technological society. Actually, the enactment of that section (which says, "No

copyright shall subsist . . . in any publication of the United States Government") was a recognition of the fact that a number of government officials had in the past made private profit on privileged publication of government documents. Thus the real purpose of Section 8 was to regulate the morality of public servants.

Henry fails to pinpoint the flaw in Section 8 that has caused so much uncertainty and difficulty through more than six decades—a flaw that has not been corrected to this day. This was the failure of the Act of 1909 to define terms—the failure to state, even generally, what is and what is not a "government publication." This question has never been clarified, either by subsequent legislation or by court law. In attempting to improvise a practical answer, both federal agencies and publishers often have been guilty of inconsistency in policy and practices.

Henry also does not point out that the difference between publishers and certain public-interest advocates is actually quite narrow. The difference is, simply stated, whether or not private copyright should be allowed in a work produced not *by*, but *for*, a government agency under a contract or grant and in a situation where the sponsoring agency decides that private publication is in the public interest with reference to the purpose of the contract or grant. This issue has been investigated and debated over and over again in recent years, mainly in connection with the pending copyright revision legislation or with proposed reform of government procurement policy. In both connections it was concluded that sponsoring agencies should have discretionary authority to allow private copyright under appropriate terms and conditions.

Specifically, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary report (1) on the pending copyright bill S. 1361 states, "The bill deliberately avoids making any sort of outright, unqualified prohibition against copyright in works prepared under Government contract or grant." In the same vein, the U.S. Commission on Government Procurement, after a thorough study of the matter in 1971 and 1972, came up with the following official recommendations (2).

RECOMMENDATION 14. Amend or repeal statutes limiting agency flexibility in dealing with the publication of works developed under Government contracts.

RECOMMENDATION 15. Enact legislation giving all agencies authority to acquire private copyrights or interests therein.

One must regret that Henry failed to report these two policy decisions, for they are of much importance to scientists. Suffice it to say that, had Henry's narrow view

of public domain prevailed in the past three decades, scores of works produced under government contracts and grants would never have been published in complete and carefully edited volume form, including such monumental works as the *Radiation Laboratory Series* and the *National Nuclear Energy Series*.

After quoting the new ruling of the U.S. Office of Education (USOE) in 1965 on public domain policy, Henry then minimizes the fact that this policy was completely reversed a few years later. This was because it was discovered, as publishers had predicted, that no one would publish what anyone and everyone could publish. Further, Henry suggests that the USOE policy statement was addressed to teaching materials, when it was, in fact, concerned with research reports. Henry might also have reported that that short-lived USOE policy was directly contrary to the policies of the National Science Foundation, the Atomic Energy Commission, and several other federal agencies. Thus it was clearly misleading for Henry to imply that the USOE position was the proper one (3).

Henry too quickly jumps to the conclusion that, since publishers have profitably produced a few "instant paperback" editions of a limited number of government publications, such as the Warren Commission's report, they "hardly seem excluded from profit by the absence of copyright." Actually, no more than 20 of such mass market editions have been produced in the past 10 years, and several of them were profitless because the demand was oversupplied by too many different editions. Not more than one in 1000 government publications is suitable for this kind of commercial reprinting, and none of them has had professional value to the scientist.

Book publishers solidly support the prohibition of copyright in any publication that is truly a government work, which is to say "a work prepared by an officer or employee of the United States Government as part of his official duties" (4). Hence they solidly support the relevant section of the pending copyright revision bill, which is based on the definition just quoted. This definition, plus the legislative intent as stated in the Senate Judiciary Committee report (quoted above), should go far to remove the uncertainty and confusion that have vexed government officials and publishers for so many years.

Contrary to Henry's supposition, book publishers do not contend that commercial publication of certain kinds of government-financed works saves public funds because they assume that the Government Printing Office (GPO) operates at a loss. Rather, they argue three points in favor of

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CLINICAL APPLICATIONS OF ZINC METABOLISM edited by Walter J. Pories, Case Western Reserve Univ., Cleveland, Ohio; William H. Strain, Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio; Jeng M. Hsu, Johns Hopkins Univ., Baltimore, Maryland; and Raymond L. Woosley, Meyer Laboratories, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. (44 Contributors) Topics covered include the role of zinc in protein synthesis, the effects of zinc in man, zinc sulfate therapy in surgical patients, oral zinc sulfate in the management of severely burned patients, and many others. '75, 320 pp. (6 3/4 x 9 3/4), 79 il., 80 tables, \$28.50

DISEASES TRANSMITTED FROM ANIMALS TO MAN (6th Ed.) compiled and edited by William T. Hubbert, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge; William F. McCulloch, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia; and Paul R. Schnurrenberger, Auburn Univ., Auburn, Alabama. (24 Consultants and 68 Contributors) The format of this Sixth Edition has been revised with emphasis on the ecologic and epidemiologic features of each disease. The text champions the philosophy that effective prevention will eliminate the need for treatment. Anyone interested in the diseases common to man and other animals will find this text an indispensable reference. '75, 1236 pp. (7 x 10), 45 il., 98 tables, \$58.00

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Energy and the Shape of Society

Most people are aware that consumption of energy is involved in many aspects of their lives. Congressmen seem to be convinced that it is important, for at least 33 committees are seeking to have jurisdiction over a piece of the energy action. Even so, the significance of energy in shaping society is probably not generally recognized. Coming shifts in energy sources will have profound effects on the economy and on the way people live. Not all these effects will be manifested quickly, although signs of change are visible. For example, long-depressed Appalachia is beginning to enjoy a revival of demand for its resources. In contrast, the prognosis for New England during the next decade is relatively bleak; the area has come to depend very heavily on cheap foreign oil. Low prices for petroleum will not return, and the region must send huge sums of money elsewhere to pay for its energy while facing serious unemployment. Some notion of the magnitude of the coming evolution may be guessed at by a brief survey of some earlier experiences.

Before about 100 years ago this nation's principal source of energy was wood, with some contribution from windmills and waterpower. Most people lived on farms. Then came a great industrial development fueled by coal. As a result the center of industrial activity of the country shifted toward Pittsburgh and the Middle West. Soon the electric streetcar came into wide use in mass transport, and this had considerable influence in determining the evolution of the shape of cities. About the time of World War I, use of oil began to have significant impact on the economy and on living patterns. Cheap and abundant gasoline made possible a mobile society and ultimate shifts in the location of housing developments. Machinery powered by oil products led to a profound revolution in agriculture and a great outflow of people from rural areas.

In about 1950 natural gas came to have an important role in the economy. Because of its low cost and superior quality as a fuel, it determined the location of vast new petrochemical complexes. Texas and other Gulf states enjoyed great prosperity and booming construction. Areas dependent on coal did not fare well; oil and gas were priced so low as to depress the price and inhibit the use of coal. Appalachia experienced 20 years of stagnation.

Today Appalachia can look toward a different future. Coal is now in demand at prices that are bringing in much money. Moreover, in future additional large chemical complexes devoted to liquefaction and gasification of coal will be constructed. This will upgrade employment opportunities by increasing the need for chemical engineers and trained technicians and operators.

Other regions will also be affected by the changing energy picture. Energy costs have become an important factor in many industrial processes and will accordingly be significant in determining which regions prosper and which decay. It is too early to forecast the decline of a state, such as Louisiana, but the prognosis for the Gulf states has changed. Not so long ago natural gas could be obtained at a cost of less than \$0.10 per million Btu. Some long-term contracts are still honored at prices in the vicinity of \$0.25. However, gas from new discoveries is selling in the intrastate market for about \$1.75 per million Btu. In contrast, coal in Appalachia and in parts of the Middle West can be bought as low as \$0.50 per million Btu. In some of the Rocky Mountain states, this figure is about \$0.25. The corresponding price of energy from imported oil is about \$2.

It is too early to sketch further the detailed outlines of coming social and economic adjustments. However, it seems evident that the coastal areas of this country are entering an era in which they will be handicapped relative to some interior states. What happens will, of course, depend on many factors, including attitudes of the states toward industrialization and availability of other vital materials, such as water. It will also depend on the extent to which nuclear energy is employed. In any event, we have passed a great bend in the road and are moving toward changes comparable to some of those that occurred in the United States earlier in the twentieth century.—PHILIP H. ABELSON

AAAS

announces

THE '75 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

At a time when science and its role in human affairs is being scrutinized more closely than ever before . . . when inflation and sharply rising costs in all areas are affecting organizations and institutions as well as individuals . . .

We at AAAS are reaching out . . .

for new members . . .

for new ideas . . .

for a wider base of support . . .

so that we can remain a dynamic force within the scientific and technical community!

**AND WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU,
OUR ACTIVE MEMBERS, TO HELP!**

In the near future you will receive a letter from AAAS explaining the '75 Membership Drive and asking you to take just a few minutes of your time to participate.

- If you are one of our *active* members . . .
- If you have more than a casual interest in AAAS, its progress and goals . . .
- If you want to *do* something to help . . .

then watch for the arrival of our letter and take part in the '75 Membership Drive!

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