

MAJOR REPORT ON PROFESSIONAL WOMEN AND MINORITIES

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN AND MINORITIES—A Manpower Data Resource Service is a comprehensive new study being published by the Scientific Manpower Commission for use by educational institutions, industry, and government. This 320-page publication brings together for the first time virtually all available data on manpower at professional levels with special emphasis on women and minorities in the natural and social sciences, engineering, arts, humanities, education, and the professions.

Published in loose-leaf format with appropriate subject divider tabs, this four-part reference book will include basic information on affirmative action, manpower data in all fields from more than 100 sources, recruitment resources, and an annotated bibliography and cross index. Approximately 400 tables and charts with breakdowns by sex and/or minority status provide data on enrollments; degrees; and on general, academic and federal workforce participation by field and subfield. Each data resource section, arranged by field, is supplemented with textual highlights of the data and lists of specialized recruitment resources for women and minorities in that field. A continuing subscription service will provide semiannual updates and supplementary data.

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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?

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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.

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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