

insurance plan, which covers active employees only. Mortality data (deaths due to cancer) are derived primarily from claims made under the company-paid group life insurance plan, which covers pensioners as well as active employees. Neither set of data covers employees who have left the company before qualifying for a pension. And there are others who, for one reason or other, escape the health and life insurance net.

Du Pont statisticians evaluated the sig-

nificance of these data by comparing the cancer rates for company employees with the rates for other reference groups at the national and local levels; they also compared individual Du Pont plants with the average for the entire company. Most of these comparisons showed less cancer among company employees than among the reference groups, a finding whose significance was later disputed by the critics. In cases where Du Pont employees exceeded the reference group

for any particular kind of cancer, company statisticians generally attributed the difference to factors other than the work environment.

As it submitted its documents to Maguire's subcommittee, Du Pont, still smarting from the tongue-lashing it received at the 28 May hearing, launched a counterattack of press releases that stressed the relatively low cancer rate among its employees. One press release noted that in the years from 1956 through

## Moon's Annual Science Meeting Is Becoming a Tradition

The fifth annual International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences (ICUS), sponsored by South Korean evangelist Sun Myung Moon, came off like clockwork this year. Although Moon's name has figured in current scandals over influence peddling in this country by the South Korean Central Intelligence Agency, none of the participants appeared to have qualms about accepting the largesse of the Moon organization, which put \$500,000 into the 3-day meeting, held in Washington, D.C.

Unlike last year, when several noted scientists including Kenneth Boulding and Amitai Etzioni decided as a matter of principle to withdraw from participation, there were no highly publicized defections.

There are, no doubt, many scientists who would not go to the meeting because of the sponsorship. Despite the fact that the two leading lights of the conference, Nobel laureates Sir John Eccles and Eugene P. Wigner, have distinctly right-of-center political views, politics did not intrude on the meeting which succeeded in drawing a prestigious assortment of over 400 scientists, social scientists, and philosophers.

The meeting, whose theme was "the search for absolute values," was divided into four committees: on religion and philosophy (chaired by Frederick Sontag of Pomona College); the social sciences and humanities (Morton A. Kaplan, University of Chicago); the life sciences (Brazilian sociologist Miguel Covian, who pinch-hit for the ailing British ecologist Kenneth Mellanby) and the physical sciences (Wigner).

The participants all had a marvelous time talking about the origins of life, relativity theory versus quantum theory, the fundamental rules of force, the causes of crime, and other heady things.

Milling around during the coffee breaks, the scientists expressed happiness at the opportunity to attend a multidisciplinary gathering with such high-caliber participants. David T. Carr of the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine said the opportunities for such "cross fertilization" of ideas were all too few and observed that this meeting was "very much like the AAAS meeting." None was bothered by the sponsorship, or the source of funds—said to be gathered by Moon's acolytes through their various cottage industries—which they felt was no worse than being sponsored by a big naughty corporation or a totalitarian government. After all, said one, no one has a corner on virtue and "there's a great deal of laundering of money in America."

Alan C. Nixon, former president of the American Chemical Society, said there were a few "raised eyebrows" among his friends at his attendance, but he didn't care because he was curious. The scientists enjoyed the services of hordes of clean-cut young members of Moon's Unification Church, and not even the humanists seemed bothered by the peculiar emptiness in the eyes of many Moon followers.

And with 3 days of good talk, and free food, transportation, and lodgings, who's to complain? Moon kept himself discreetly out of sight except for an opening address (whose content was dismissed by two scientists respectively, as "poppycock" and "utter nonsense") and a closing dinner. No effort was made to impose his philosophy on the deliberations, which is why scientists like his meetings better than those sponsored by another fan of science, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, the guru of Transcendental Meditation, whose meetings are all designed to show how natural laws fit in with his "science of creative intelligence."

Although the ICUS conference prides itself on bringing together representatives from many nations, one group that was noticeably underrepresented was women. Of more than 400 names listed on the program, only 12 could be readily identified as female. Although conference secretary general Michael Young Warder explained that there just weren't that many women who had distinguished themselves in science as yet, the stag atmosphere of the whole organization is reflected in its upper hierarchies which are virtually free of women. Moon himself appears to feel that women distinguish themselves in other ways. According to a pamphlet handed out by two placard-bearing Moon opponents outside the hotel, Moon is quoted as saying "Master" needs "many good-looking girls" to educate the U.S. Senate. Three girls per senator—"one is for the election, one is to be the diplomat, one is for the party."

Moon has said a lot worse things than that, to the effect that he intends to conquer and subjugate the world. Perhaps if any of the scientists took him seriously, they would not be so quick to lend him the prestige of their presence.

A prominent participant, R. V. Jones of Aberdeen University, at one point quoted Nobel laureate Frederick Soddy to the effect that "It is priests, not religions, that it is difficult for scientific men to live with." It is a tribute to the finesse of the priest who sponsored the conference that so many notable men of science gathered under his aegis.

—C.H.