

LETTERS

TVA's Energy Policy

Early in her article "TVA today: Former reformers in an era of expensive electricity" (News and Comment, 19 Nov. 1976, p. 814), Deborah Shapley describes the Tennessee Valley Authority's "unwritten mandate to proceed with its power generating activities, even though power production was nowhere mentioned in the original TVA legislation." In fact, the production or distribution of electric power is mentioned in 19 of the 30 sections of the original TVA act.

If the quality of Shapley's research for the rest of her article is comparable to her legislative research, we believe *Science* readers may wish to question other aspects of the article.

We'd be blind and deaf if we didn't agree that, in some quarters at least, as Shapley concludes, "There is some question as to whether TVA is providing the sort of model it should for national energy policy." As a matter of fact, TVA is doing its dead-level best to *be* a model for national energy policy, and a national laboratory for trying out various approaches to problems the nation faces. We believe we're getting there and (with no claims of perfection) would suggest that some of our detractors have prematurely categorized us as fossilized.

It's a matter of approach, and we're taking a couple of them. We believe there is a solid, valuable contribution to be made by TVA in providing real-world solutions to real-world problems, all done within the operating realities of the nation's largest electric system.

But we are also experimenting: with a "real-life" test of peak-load pricing; with sophisticated load metering of homes and businesses to find out who's using electricity, how much, and at what time of day; with a plan to equalize monthly electric bills based on present energy use, provide insulation to homeowners, and let the cost be borne by the savings in energy use they achieve; with solar energy units on some of our buildings; with the nation's first large-scale, back-to-contour strip mine reclamation demonstration conducted in mountainous terrain; with an authorization to begin studies we hope will lead to the construction and commercial operation on our power system of a fluidized bed combustion generating plant for the clean burning of this region's coal; with other things, too, but I believe that's enough of a laundry list to debunk the "neat summary" that TVA is using "the same bag of tricks

that they started life with." That quote is from, as Shapley notes, a speech in *early* 1976. It is hardly a current assessment of TVA or the energy field, both of which are dynamic and changing from day to day.

JOHN VAN MOL
*Office of the General Manager,
Tennessee Valley Authority,
Knoxville 37902*

The error concerning TVA's power mandate has already been corrected in the 24 December issue of *Science* (p. 1402).

The solar energy, strip-mine, and fluidized bed combustion projects are not, as Van Mol claims, evidence that TVA has been "dynamic and changing" in 1976; TVA began each of these projects years ago. Moreover, the three rate policy experiments he cites already have been implemented by some other utilities around the nation. Finally, these projects comprise a very small portion of TVA's total program.

DEBORAH SHAPLEY

Genetics and IQ

A number of letters appeared in the 1 October 1976 issue of *Science* (p. 6) voicing disagreement with various aspects of the article by Feldman and Lewontin on the genetics of IQ (19 Dec. 1975, p. 1163). These responses could leave the casual reader with the impression that Feldman and Lewontin stand alone in their views.

Because the subject has such far-ranging implications, we believe it is important to counter this impression by reminding the readership of *Science* that the Genetics Society of America has discussed the genetics and IQ controversy over the past 2 years and adopted a resolution on this subject at the 1976 annual meeting. The sense and language of the resolution was submitted to mail ballot of the entire membership. Over half of the Genetics Society members responded and, of those, 94 percent supported the complete statement. Three sentences from the resolution are relevant (1).

It is particularly important to note that a genetic component for IQ score differences *within* a racial group does not necessarily imply the existence of a significant genetic component in IQ differences *between* racial groups; an average difference can be generated solely by differences in their environments. . . . In our views, there is no convincing evidence as to whether there is or is not an appreciable genetic difference in in-

telligence between races. . . . We feel that geneticists can and must also speak out against the misuse of genetics for political purposes, and the drawing of social conclusions from inadequate data.

These statements represent the views of 1488 geneticists. Feldman and Lewontin express views shared by many, although they are perhaps more articulate and courageous than some of us.

GORDON J. EDLIN
TIMOTHY PROUT

*Department of Genetics,
Agricultural Experiment Station,
College of Agricultural and
Environmental Sciences,
University of California, Davis 95616*

References

1. *Genetics* **83** (Suppl.) (July 1976), p. s99.

Reducing Photochemical Smog

I would like to clear up any misunderstanding which may have resulted from the article in *Science* (Research News, 3 Sept. 1976, p. 871) concerning the proposed use of diethyl hydroxylamine (DEHA) as a scavenging molecule to reduce the formation of photochemical smog, as proposed by Julian Heicklen of Pennsylvania State University. The article gives the misleading impression that scientists from the Hebrew University have agreed to participate in a field test in Jerusalem with DEHA.

Good relations have existed between Heicklen and the Hebrew University for a number of years, and we have discussed on several occasions the possibility of cooperative research programs, among them, Heicklen's ideas on the use of DEHA. Most recently this was discussed in the spring of 1976 on the occasion of Heicklen's visit to Jerusalem, at which time he made specific proposals for carrying out field tests.

Our position has always been that there is no possibility of even considering field tests with DEHA until the completion of toxicological tests and the approval of the use of this material by the Ministry of Health in Israel. The Ministry of Health has not approved such experiments, and the Hebrew University has no plans to carry out field tests with this material at this time.

HILLEL I. SHUVAL
*Environmental Health Laboratory,
Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical
School, Jerusalem, Israel*

Erratum: In the letter from Martin M. Barnes (3 Dec. 1976, p. 998), the first citation in reference 1 should have been J. Swarz, "Poisoning farmworkers," *Environment* **17** (No. 4), 26 (1975).