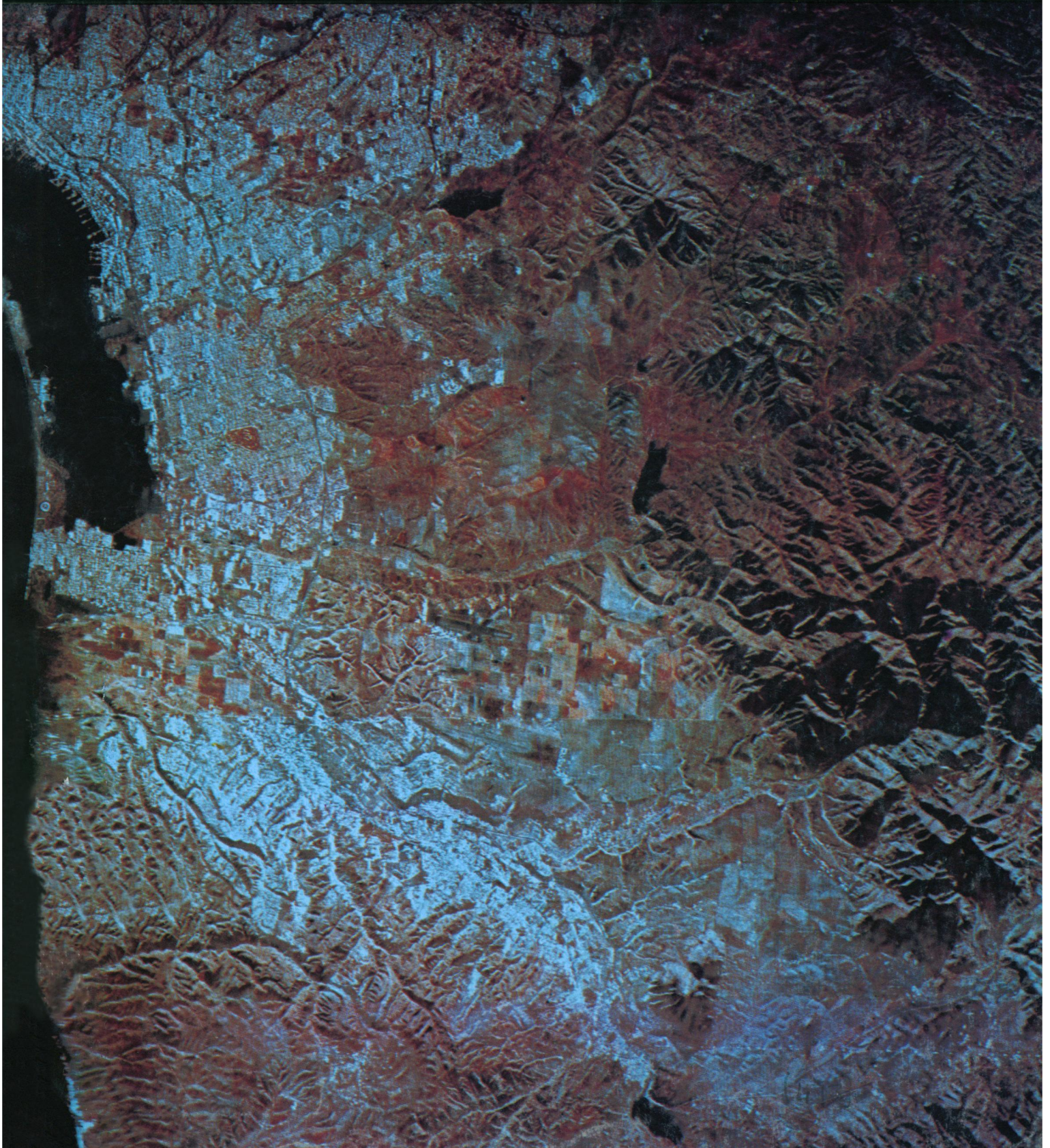


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29 April 1977, Volume 196, No. 4289



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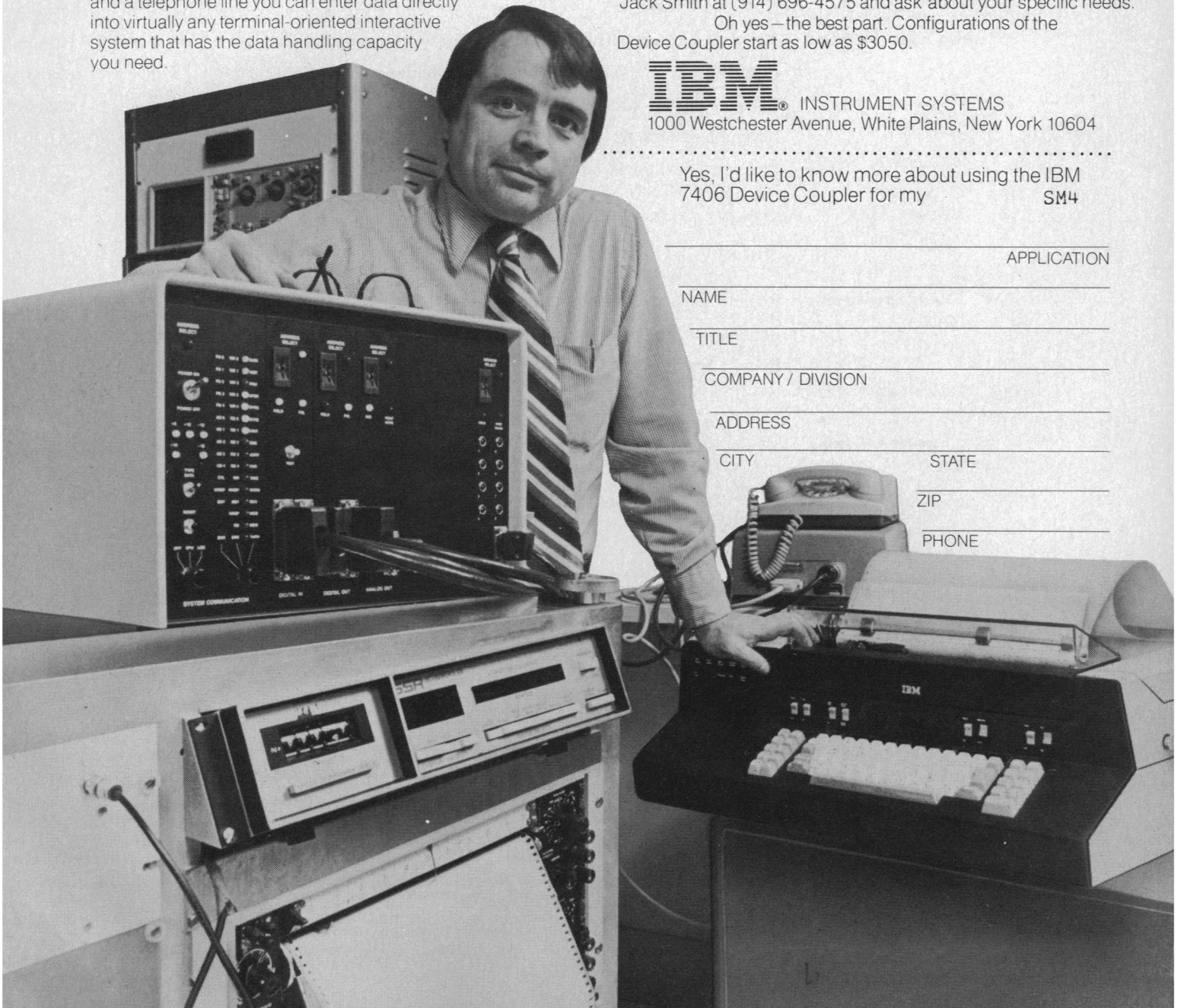
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This view of the California coastline at San Diego results from an experimental photographic superposition of images from two different remote sensing techniques, the Landsat multispectral scanner and side-look microwave radar. The color differentiation of surfaces derives from a composite of three Landsat bands, topographic detail from the radar. See page 515. [Goodyear Aerospace Corporation, Litchfield Park, Arizona]

The American Association for the Advancement of Science was founded in 1848 and incorporated in 1874. Its objects are to further the work of scientists, to facilitate cooperation among them, to improve the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare, and to increase public understanding and appreciation of the importance and promise of the methods of science in human progress.

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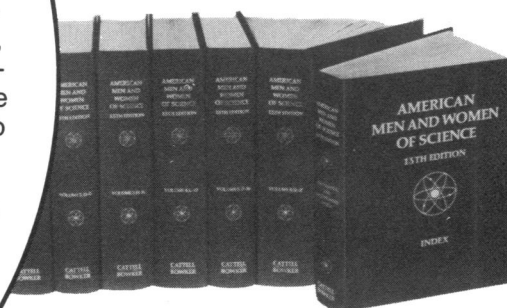
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15-16 June

Sheraton National Motor Hotel
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Based on the forthcoming report "R&D in the Federal Budget: FY 1978" (copies will be provided to registrants).

The colloquium will provide a forum for constructive discussion of selected topics in the report, including future trends in R&D budgeting, the congressional role in R&D budgeting, and problems in rationales and criteria for R&D budget decisions.

Featured speakers and panelists will include appropriate officials from the Executive Branch, Members of Congress, and leading figures in the scientific, technical, and public policy communities.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Wednesday, 15 June

10:00 a.m. Opening session; opening address.

12:30 p.m. Lunch; major address.

2:30 p.m. *R&D Budgets and Future Outlook.* This session will consider current budgets and future outlook for R&D. Selected speakers, panelists, and participants will address major issues in the FY 1978 budget; the trends and 5-year outlooks for federal R&D; and their implications for national needs, scientific progress, and R&D institutions.

5:30 p.m. Reception and buffet dinner; major address.

7:30 p.m. *Congressional Role in R&D Budgeting.* This session will address questions of current interest regarding the role of Congress, its committees, and associated agencies in R&D budgeting. Discussion will focus on the congressional vs. the executive role; the proper balance and degree of control over R&D programs; problems and limitations; and effective interaction between scientific and technical communities and the Congress.

Thursday, 16 June

10:00 a.m. *How Should R&D Decisions Be Made?* This session will attempt to develop a consensus among representatives of the scientific and technical community, the Executive Branch, and the Congress on how R&D budget decisions should be made. Issues to be addressed will include conditions to be met and avoided, a "straw man" conceptual system of processes, criteria for R&D budget decisions, and unresolved questions that require attention.

1:00 p.m. Lunch; major address; closing of program.

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- ☐ \$40 Single Registration (includes FY78 report and Proceedings of Colloquium)
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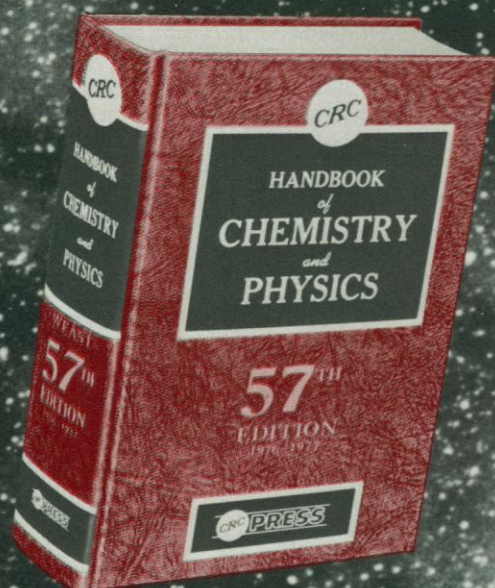
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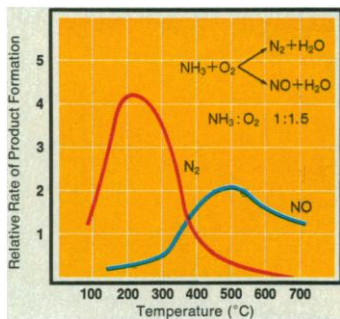
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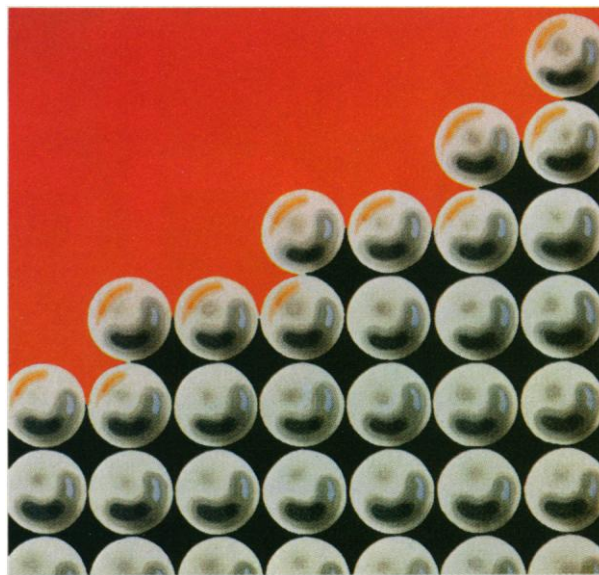
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Science and the Future of the Family

At the present accelerating rate of depletion, the United States will run out of families not long after it runs out of oil. The proportion of married households out of total households declined from 72.5 percent in 1965 to 64.9 percent in 1976. While the average annual rate of decline was 0.33 percent for the first 3 years of this period, it tripled to 0.97 percent for the last 3 years. Depending on one's assumptions about how this acceleration will progress, the United States will have not a married household left a generation or so from now. This is not to be taken as a prediction; it simply projects a past trend into the future at the same rate of acceleration. The projection suffices, however, to show that the family is an endangered species, which it may require a conscious collective effort to save as part of our social ecology. Clearly if this decline is not to continue, some powerful forces will have to intervene to reverse the trend.

However, before great personal or public efforts to reinvigorate the family can be expected, and indeed legitimately called for, serious scientific effort is needed. Matters of evidence loom large. Several theories have been advanced which hold that disintegration of the "traditional" family is far from a sociological disaster, sure to undermine the basic cell of the societal organism; instead, it is a step toward higher and better forms of living. It is argued that the breakup of the traditional family is beneficial to both adults and children because it paves the way to freer, more egalitarian, less sexist arrangements. Still others argue that institutions (child care centers, communal living) can and ought to replace the family altogether.

Counterarguments are just as readily advanced. While both critics and defenders of the family have a role to play in clarifying the issues, a good many of the questions are primarily empirical. For example, do children, especially young ones, suffer or benefit—how so and how much—when they have one parent instead of two? How well or badly do most children cope with the stresses of parental divorce and remarriage, with relating to a step-parent, especially one different in personality or background from their natural parent, and other members of the "reconstituted" family? Do people learn the lessons of failed first marriages and make better second marriages? Are "alternate" families and marital patterns (such as communal families and contractual marriage) really more emotionally satisfying and less constraining than traditional marriage and the nuclear family? What do lasting or satisfying marriages have in common, and how do public policies, societal attitudes, and educational efforts influence those attributes?

There have been scores of studies of these questions, but none of them has the scope and definitiveness necessary to come to grips with the issues. By and large, consisting of a small sample here and a limited survey there, they do not provide the reliable and comprehensive picture necessary either to help settle the arguments between the defenders and the detractors of the family, or to justify or argue against a concerted societal effort to restore family stability.

A major research initiative involving a coordinated cluster of projects is needed to provide information regarding the issues raised above and related ones. A national commission may well be necessary to consider the public policy implications of the findings of such a research program. While the preservation or disintegration of the family may at first seem a highly personal matter, one soon realizes that it is affected by public policies concerning welfare, taxes, Social Security, divorce, child care, and so on. Once we are armed with more definitive data about the effects of family disintegration, we shall know whether we ought to try to reverse this trend or, if the critics of the family are correct, urge it on.—AMITAI ETZIONI, *Columbia University, New York 10027, and Center for Policy Research, Inc., 475 Riverside Drive, New York 10027*



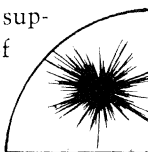
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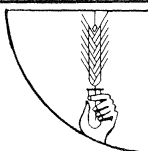
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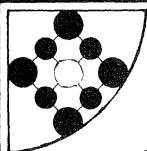
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