scientific implications of Jensen's election, we feel the AAAS has an obligation to the scientific community and world opinion to make public the fact that a significant number of members of the academic community are unequivocally opposed to this action. We are certain that thousands more would endorse these statements if given the opportunity.

HERBERT GOLDSTONE
TOBIAS SCHWARTZ, JAMES SCULLY
International Committee Against Racism, 41 Union Square West, New York 10025

References

1. O. Gillie, London *Sunday Times*, 24 October 1976, p 1.

Chemicals: The "Strawman List"

Thomas H. Maugh II (Research News, 13 Jan., p. 162) implies that the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) played a role in selecting the 33,000 chemicals that are thought to be in common use and that CAS "submitted to EPA [this] list," often referred to as the "strawman list," on which the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) inventory will be modeled.

In fact, the list of 33,579 compounds was derived from the merger of several files from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)–Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Chemical Information System (*1*). Among the EPA files used were those on oil and hazardous materials (858 compounds), chemical spills (577), and pollutants in drinking water (215). Also used were the Stanford Research Institute's file on industrial chemicals (26,780), the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Chemric monographs (866) and files on chemicals in products (3300), and the U.S. International Trade Commission list (9194). The decisions as to the makeup of the strawman list were made entirely by EPA and NIH staff; CAS, under contract to EPA, simply performed the registration of these chemicals.

It is now becoming clear that a strawman list composed of such files will contain few chemicals that are not commonly found in commerce in the United States and, as such, it serves as a useful model for the TSCA inventory.

WILLIS GREENSTREET
Management Information and Data Systems Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. 20460

References

1. S. R. Heller, G. W. A. Milne, R. J. Feldmann, *Science* **195**, 253 (1977).