the relations between them" (5). At least let us not be blind to their differences in making that decision.

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## **Applied Social Science**

Mazur (Letters, 22 May, p. 875) observes that social scientists have not constructed better social systems than laymen have. . . . Our failure to design improved social systems is due as much to our failure to esteem social scientists who do applied research as it is to the general lack of social scientific progress which Mazur implies. When applied social research and the development of social theory are done well, they become complementary processes. We need to hone the methodological tools and analytical skills that facilitate dovetailing of theory construction with social research which has an applied orientation. In fact, the feedback between theory and application is inadequately understood and is itself in need of further study (1).

Research into fundamental social processes continues to be needed. However, the substantial drop in federal monies available to social research requires that we seek alternative sources of funding in a marketplace which can be expected to demand that practitioners' concerns be taken into account. If we meet the challenge, the social sciences may benefit more than they are harmed.

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1. H. A. Simon, *The Sciences of the Artificial* (MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1969).

*Erratum*: The legend to the photograph of spoil from strip mining (News and Comment, 15 May, p. 759) incorrectly reads: "Kentucky argued to bar this completely, but only after a fight." The caption should have read, "Kentucky *agreed* to bar this completely, but only after a fight."

*Erratum*: In the article "New A-bomb studies alter radiation estimates" (News and Comment, 22 May, p. 902), the reference to C. P. Knowles' research should have read: "power of the Little Boy bomb," not "Fat Man bomb."



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