## LETTERS

### Exchange of Technical Information

In Gina Kolata's article "Export control threat disrupts meeting" (News and Comment, 24 Sept., p. 1233), in which she reports on the withdrawals of papers under the control of the Department of Defense (DOD) at the 26th International Technical Symposium of the Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE) in San Diego, California, several statements were made that should be clarified.

I am credited with having said that "a number of members have withdrawn from the organization, reasoning that it is on DOD's hit list," and that "[t]he whole fabric of our society is unraveling in our hands." More accurately, I stated that, if disruptions similar to those experienced by SPIE in San Diego were to be repeated, not only our organization, but other scientific and engineering societies as well, would quickly find themselves losing members, symposia attendance, and general support. I further stated that submission of technical material would be inhibited if individuals perceived that societies were on a DOD "hit list." In effect, the whole fabric of the voluntary communication structure in the United States would begin to unravel, to the detriment of the country (SPIE does not believe that it or any other group is on any so-called DOD hit list, nor do we believe DOD is contemplating generating such a list).

To ensure that the events of San Diego are not repeated, the president of SPIE, Richard J. Wollensak, other SPIE representatives, and I met with key DOD officials to discuss, in a constructive way, how to reconcile the DOD responsibility for national security and the need of the technical community for open and unencumbered exchange of information. SPIE, like most active technical organizations, is endeavoring to address the "cutting edge" interests of its membership. Many of the subjects addressed in San Diego that DOD feels may have been "too sensitive" have been part of an ongoing series of yearly conferences, in many instances organized at the specific request of various government agencies and their key scientific and engineering staffs.

As is true for other professional organizations in the United States, SPIE has no way of determining what material is sensitive or not sensitive and therefore must rely on the advice and judgment of chairmen and presenters and, most important, on DOD itself and its attendant and timely clearance procedures to ensure conformity with national security interests. Every prospective speaker at SPIE conferences is explicitly advised well in advance that all necessary clearances should be obtained prior to presentation and are the responsibility of the presenter and his sponsoring organization.

Obviously, the participation in San Diego of more than 2700 applied scientists and engineers attests to the usefulness of SPIE as an effective forum. We are convinced that, with open-mindedness, goodwill, and mutual respect, a reasonable solution can be found for this vexing problem of national concern.

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### Large White Butterfly: A Warning

John Feltwell's book *Large White Butterfly* (Book Reviews, 8 Oct., p. 150) is a boon to those of us who study pierid biology, but it poses an inadvertent threat to American agriculture. For many years I have gotten occasional inquiries from American biologists regarding the availability of laboratory cultures of *Pieris brassicae*. Since the appearance of Feltwell's book, the tempo of these has increased notably. A collection of several thousand technical references cannot help but make the Large White very attractive as a lab system. Therefore, it should be broadcast widely that it is a dangerous pest of cole crops that is rigorously—and rightly—excluded from this country by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The readily available species in this country—also introduced from Europe more than 120 years ago—is *Pieris rapae*, which for some reason is frequently confused with *P. brassicae* by American workers. It has a respectable literature of its own, thus far not similarly collated, but it has been used much less for biochemical and physiological work because it is quite a bit smaller. Because its degree of phylogenetic relationship with *brassicae* is in question (some authorities now place them in separate genera), extrapolations from one species to the other should be made with great caution.

Anyone tempted to smuggle *brassicae* into the United States should remember that we owe our worst forest defoliator, the gypsy moth, to a well-meaning biologist who brought it into Massachusetts in the 19th century. The native range of *P. brassicae* is most of the Palaearctic region (Europe, nontropical Asia, and North Africa), and it is naturalized in central Chile. There are many lovely *P. brassicae* habitats suitable for a sabbatical.

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### Dwarf Cattle and Trypanosomiasis

Thomas H. Maugh II's article about efforts to control the tsetse fly (*Glossina* spp.) through the use of pheromones (Research News, 15 Oct., p. 278) leaves the impression that trypanosomiasis in cattle, called nagana, occurs only in the savannas of central southern Africa and that raising and use of domestic cattle are precluded in the region. The disease equally troubles cattle in the savannas of western and central northern Africa, where it is transmitted chiefly by the morsitans group of *Glossina*. The disease also occurs throughout the rainforests of western and central Africa through transmission mainly by the Palpalis group of *Glossina* (*1*).

Raising and use of European and Asian species of cattle are precluded in all areas infested by the tsetse fly. However, dwarf humpless cattle are native to the savannas and rainforests of West Africa and they are resistant to trypanosomiasis (*2*). These long- and shorthorn species are kept in small numbers as prestige symbols and frequently as part of bridewealth (*3*). Presumably these dwarf breeds could be raised and used in central southern Africa.

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#### References

1. J. P. Glasgow, *The Distribution and Abundance of Tsetse* (Pergamon, New York, 1963), pp. 170–175.
2. H. Epstein, *The Origin of the Domestic Animals of Africa* (Africana, New York, 1971), vol. 1, pp. 201–326.
3. P. Bohannan and L. Bohannan, *Tiv Economy* (Northwestern Univ. Press, Evanston, Ill., 1968), pp. 123 and 217.

### Peer Review Problems

It has probably occurred to all of us that "the system works when I get funded and fails when I don't." Nonetheless, S. Walter Englander's letter (10 Sept., p. 984) must have struck a sympathetic