perspective of scientists interested in the freedom of scientific inquiry. While this may be the central concern of the scientific community, it falls short of the necessary and legitimate concern of a public agency using public moneys.

For example, Schachman contends that "governmental intervention" is never appropriate for "concerns regarding errors in collecting and interpreting data, incompetence, poor laboratory procedures, selection of data, authorship practices, and multiple publications." This contention can only be defended if one believes that public funds for academic research occupy a special, privileged position far different from public funds for defense, health care, enterprise zones, welfare or any other legal use of such funds. It is reasonable to ask that scientists not be punished for innocent mistakes, but it is not reasonable to expect that grossly negligent scientific practices supported by government funding are outside the realm of government intervention.

Thus, I believe that the current debate is too limited in scope. The phrase that is of principle concern to Schachman—"other serious deviation from accepted practices"—is a significant concession to the scientific community. It essentially invites that community to establish a form of "common law" governing the behavior of its members in the legitimate use of public funds. It would be well for the scientific community to accept that invitation and work on this broader issue rather than endlessly debating the more limited issue. Our failure to do so might mean that it will be addressed and settled by others—perhaps in unfriendly congressional hearing rooms.

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Proton Decay Interest

Charles Mann and Robert Crease briefly discuss the ICARUS proton decay detector in their 3 September Research News article (p. 1276). They give the impression that interest in proton decay is now lacking and write that the ICARUS detector is "on stand-by." This is not correct. There is now very great interest in the proton decay mode that produces a strange particle and an anti-neutrino according to a prediction of the Supersymmetric Grand Unified Theory. Observation of this decay would also imply the existence of massive supersymmetric particles that might be detected by the Large Hadron Collider at CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research), thus indicating that accelerator and nonaccelerator experiments provide complementary information about elementary particles. The ICARUS detector is designed to particularly detect this and many other modes of proton decay.

During the past few years, the ICARUS detector concept has been tested at CERN, where we have recorded events in the form of "electronic pictures" that are as clear as bubble chamber pictures. A 5000-ton detector is in the final stage of design, and the ICARUS team hopes to install this module in the next 5 years.

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Caltech Biology in Perspective

In their letter of 17 September (p. 1505), Robert L. Sinsheimer and Norman H. Horowitz criticize my book, *The Molecular Vision of Life* (Oxford University Press, New York, 1993), as a distortion, and Robert