visit departments of the Academy?" In spite of state and international planning, there is, in practice, much less scientific cooperation between the socialist states than between the capitalist ones.

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Prior Preparation Pays

I should like to suggest the following addendum to Bragg's recommendations ("The art of talking about science," 30 Dec., p. 1613) for improving the quality and efficiency of seminars. At the bottom of the usual seminar announcement there should be listed one or two references to recent journal articles relevant to the seminar topic. This opportunity to brush up on an old, or be introduced to a new, area of research would greatly assist students who often lose the train of thought at seminars because they are unfamiliar with terms or ideas which the speaker assumes everyone knows and understands. I am sure that this small modification of standard practice would greatly increase the efficiency of seminars and attention of participants.

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Canada's Science Council: Incomplete Representation

Most Canadian scientists will greatly appreciate Carter's article ("Canada: science advisors to propose priorities," 2 Sept., p. 1083) in which the organization and responsibilities of the Science Council and Scientific Secretariat of Canada were outlined. However, there is a considerable gap in the representation of the Council; in spite of the fact that the province of Alberta is one of the leading provinces in Canada and that it has two active universities and an internationally recognized Research Council, it has not a single representative on the Science Council. As Carter pointed out, the representation from Quebec is considerable: seven council members. Apart from demographic implications, this emphasizes the peculiar political overtones which the organization and functions of the Council may

yet express. The prairie provinces are notably under-represented in Parliament by members of the Liberal party, the party presently in power in Ottawa.

The omission from the Science Council of representatives from Alberta is even more puzzling because the University of Alberta at Edmonton was the third largest recipient of research grants for operating funds, which are awarded by the National Research Council. It is logical that research in the processing of raw materials should be undertaken in this province which is Canada's major producer of oil and natural gas and is the site of an extensive petrochemical industry. The conventional sources of oil and gas may well be supplemented in the future through the processing of northern oil sands. Alberta also contributes significantly to the agricultural yields of the country.

Carter notes that the Council may devote itself to social and economic problems, which include the northern regions. The University of Alberta is the most northerly university in Canada, with a great concern for the problems of development of industries and communities in the north, and Edmonton is the southern terminus of the Alaska Highway. If, in fact, as stated in the article, there is a strong sentiment in the Council for increasing support for R & D work in industry and universities, the omission from the Council of representation from this science-rich province is a deplorable oversight or ploy.

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Rabbits First—Then Humans

In reference to Reynolds' claim that Sturgis was the first to discover and describe the fact that administered estrogens can suppress ovulation (Letters, 17 Mar.), I would like to point out that Makepeace, Weinstein, and Friedman (*Amer. J. Physiol.* **119**, 512) described this fact in 1937, or 3 years earlier than Sturgis did. However, Makepeace *et al.* worked with the rabbit, so Sturgis may still have been the first to notice the effect in humans.

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