supplies 50 percent of the blood needs of that area.

Possibly H.R. 853 is needed to prod the American public into making the gift of blood that is so essential to the well-being of their less fortunate fellows and costs them only a few minutes of their time with slight physical discomfort. Even larger subsidies may be necessary to obtain kidneys, skin, and other tissues for the rapidly increasing demands of organ transplantation. On the other hand, cynicism and materialism may be less rampant than we are sometimes led to believe. Spared from legislation such as H.R. 853, perhaps we can yet follow the English example.

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Reference

1. J. Vaughn, *Transfusion* **7**, 212 (1967).

National Register

Concerning the demise of the National Science Foundation's register of scientific and technical personnel (News and Comment, 1 Oct., p. 42), it should be mentioned that in the spring of 1970 the council of the American Sociological Association (ASA) voted to discontinue sending out questionnaires for the national register. This regrettable action was taken on the grounds that the ASA could not control the uses made of the data by government agencies and other persons and thus might subject the membership and other sociologists to inquiries to which they had not given their specific consent. The issue is related to a more general concern with the use and abuse of data banks (*1*).

Whatever the merits of this decision, the discontinuation of the national register is a blow to those who, like myself, have been engaged in research on the career lines of scientists and related problems. The register, with all its deficiencies, has been the most valuable instrument for tracing, on a large scale, the professional histories of individuals. It is to be hoped that a new, improved phoenix will rise from the ashes.

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Reference

1. P. H. Rossi, *Amer. Sociol.* **5**, 389 (1970).

One aspect of the usefulness of the national register is not mentioned in Gillette's account of its discontinuation. In contrast to an ad hoc survey of a particular field, all respondents to the register were required to declare what they considered to be their field of greatest scientific specialization or competence. In this way the "bandwagon" aspect was avoided that is so frequently associated with ad hoc surveys, and which often results in the overstatement of the degree of professional commitment to a particular field at a given time.

For this reason, despite the register's shortcomings, there was little reason to suspect it of bias. Useful conclusions concerning manpower trends over a decade could be drawn from the register's figures with a much greater degree of assurance than from two ad hoc surveys made 8 to 10 years apart.

Particularly in interdisciplinary fields, ad hoc surveys can lead to erroneous conclusions about actual manpower. It is possible for an individual who described himself to the register as a chemical oceanographer to appear simultaneously on survey lists of "nutritionists" (through an interest in marine amino acids), "atmospheric scientists" (through an interest in air-sea material exchanges), and "public health workers," (through a faculty appointment in a department of a school of public health). The choices available in the register were carefully designed so that such side issues were identified, but the respondent was placed firmly in the field of his maximum professional competence.

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Apology to Rhine and Soal

During the past year I have had some correspondence with J. B. Rhine which has convinced me that I was highly unfair to him in what I said in an article entitled "Science and the supernatural" published in *Science* in 1955 (26 Aug., p. 359). The article discussed possible fraud in extrasensory perception experiments. I suspect that I was similarly unfair in what I said about S. G. Soal in that paper.

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