

effort or time reports causes a professor to ratify a change of his status from that of "independent thinker, partially subsidized so as to have the leisure to think, to that of a professional, employed to do a job." He wrote further:

One can sympathize with the desires of men charged with the supervision of vast sums of money to see that the money is well spent. However, I believe that vigorous protests are in order when their well meant efforts are insensitive to important differences between an academic appointment and most kinds of employment and when this insensitivity puts men into impossible positions and threatens delicate but valuable institutions.

On 14 December 1979, Yale University's Deputy Provost Charles Bockelman wrote me:

When we were apprised of the pressure for efforts reporting, Yale tried in a variety of forms to express its vigorous opposition. . . . It does seem to me Yale has done all it can through institutional channels. The voices of individual professors may be more effective.

Furthermore, on 19 February 1980, NSF Director Richard C. Atkinson wrote me:

I have followed your correspondence on "effort reporting" with great interest. The government bureaucracy is educable, if one can get their attention. Your approach and tenacity may be what is required to have an effect on these issues.

I hope that many professors will contact OMB Director James McIntyre (Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503) or Presidential Science Adviser Frank Press (same address) to make themselves properly understood. Such direct appeals are not "naïve." I have no reason to doubt that a result similar to that achieved with the Goode task force will be obtained, except that instead of taking 2 years as it did in 1966-1968, it will take only a brief period because of the past experience, precedent, and mutual understanding.

SERGE LANG

Department of Mathematics,
Yale University,
New Haven, Connecticut 06520

References

1. *J. Proc. Assoc. Grad. Schools* (1966), p. 126.
2. "Time or effort reporting by colleges and universities in support of research grants and contracts: A report by a task force comprised of representatives from the Bureau of the Budget, the General Accounting Office, the Department of Defense, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare" (available from the Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C., 1968).
3. *Report of the Commission on Government Paperwork* (Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1977), pp. 19-20.

Erratum: In the article "The business of science" (News and Comment, 1 Feb., p. 507), on line 19, the turnover of Schering-Plough stock on 17 January was cited as having been "better than 128 million" shares. The correct figure is 1.29 million shares.

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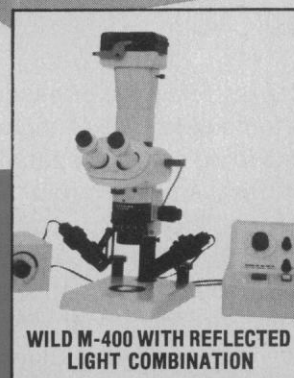


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