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## Censorship Charge

We write to inform fellow scientists of a distressing instance of political censorship of scientific publication and of the loss of employment inflicted upon a dedicated colleague for opposing this censorship. The publication we discuss stemmed from the Second International Congress on Phosphorus Compounds organized by the Institut Mondial du Phosphate (IMPHOS) and held in Boston in April 1980. IMPHOS is an association of phosphorus and fertilizer producing companies, based in Morocco with its Secretariat in Paris, and funded mainly by North African and Mid-Eastern companies. Its declared purpose is to promote research and use of phosphorus and its compounds.

The Boston meeting focused on the occurrence and recovery of uranium and other accessory elements in phosphate rock, a subject bearing on substantial and widespread new sources of energy. It was most effectively organized by Claude Eon, then director of Technical Research for IMPHOS, and an honorary scientific committee headed by John Van Wazer of Vanderbilt University. The meeting ranged in content from crystal chemistry to recovery technology. It was highly successful, truly international in character, and conducted with unusual amicability and grace. Unfortunately the altruism of the meeting did not persist in the published proceedings (1), from which two excellent contributions by Israeli scientists were arbitrarily excluded. The action was taken without the knowledge of the scientific committee and over the objections of Eon. It was imposed at the last moment, after the return of galley proofs by the Israeli contributors, Z. Ketzin and Y. Nathan. Eon has announced that IMPHOS has fired him for opposing their censorship (2).

The post facto intrusion of political censorship into a meeting advertised and conducted as an open gathering of scholars violates the basic traditions of science and the rights of all the participants. It places the scientific committee in the

position of appearing to endorse such an act by participating, unwittingly, in a deception. It compromises all of the authors who would not wish to join in the mistreatment of their colleagues. This censorship, and the harsh punishment of Eon who honorably opposed it, demands our strongest condemnation and widespread publicity, particularly as there has been no response to numerous written objections. Failure to publicize such actions would encourage their repetition, and would permit our colleagues to participate in future IMPHOS-sponsored conferences without awareness that IMPHOS practices censorship. We hope that IMPHOS will renounce this practice.

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## References

1. *Impurity Elements in Phosphate Rock and Phosphoric Acid—Characteristics, Elimination, Recovery* (Institut Mondial du Phosphate, Paris, 1980).
2. J. Derogy, *L'Express*, 28 April 1981, pp. 163-164.

## Hinged Teeth

In his report on hinged teeth in snakes (17 Apr., p. 346), A. H. Savitzky states that, although hinged teeth are known in fishes and lissamphibians, they "have not been reported in amniote vertebrates."

I wish to point out that hinged upper canine teeth have been described in two mammalian genera: muntjacs (*Muntiacus*) and Chinese water deer (*Hydropotes*) (1). This arrangement allows these ruminants to move their jaws from side to side while masticating plant foods; without hinging, the canines would interlock with the lower jaw and prevent its sideways movement.

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## References

1. J. Aitchison, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London* **116**, 329 (1946).

*Erratum:* In the report by A. Persechini and D. J. Hartshorne (18 Sept., p. 1383), the abscissa of the insert in Fig. 2 is labeled incorrectly. It should read  $^{32}\text{P}$  incorporation/kinase ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ).