

## PSYCHOLOGY

# Race Haters Unbalanced

Persons showing extreme prejudice against another race are nearing mental imbalance. Such feelings denote personal insecurity and conservatism.

► PEOPLE who demonstrate extreme racial prejudice are teetering on the brink of mental imbalance.

This was the essence of what Dr. Else Frenkel-Brunswik, University of California psychologist, told the American Psychological Association meeting in Philadelphia in a report on a study of the personality of racially prejudiced persons.

"The racially prejudiced are insecure, though externally they may exhibit confidence and even arrogance," Dr. Frenkel-Brunswik said. "They accuse racial groups of aggression, underlying weakness, preoccupation with sex, etc.

"Actually these are the things which the prejudiced find in themselves, but are unable to face in themselves. Therefore, they project these unpleasantnesses to others, usually a racial group. It is a mechanism for blaming others for one's own shortcomings. Thus the expression of racial prejudice is used by some to maintain a mental balance which might be lost if these problems could not be projected to others."

Dr. Frenkel-Brunswik's study, sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, is based on the results of questionnaires and accepted psychological tests, such as the Rorschach method. Results reported at the meeting came from the study of 140 college women subjects. She said that the character of the extremely prejudiced in this group hold for as yet unreported results of studies of business men, normal and mentally ill persons, law-abiding citizens, and inmates of a prison.

The personality traits Dr. Frenkel-Brunswik described hold true in their entirety, she explained, only for those who score among the 25% highest on the prejudice test. She indicated that the 25% least prejudiced also exhibit abnormal personality traits, but said that data had not yet been compiled on this phase of the study.

Dr. Frenkel-Brunswik stated that persons who exhibit prejudice against one racial group are prejudiced against all racial groups but their own. She said they have less creative imagination, less insight and capacity for "putting oneself in another's shoes," lack emotional re-

sponsiveness, have less capacity for abstract thinking, and are unable to accept new ideas.

On the basis of the scores they are also characterized by "authoritarian submission and aggression, superstition, conventionality, in-group and family loyalty, anti-intellectualism, anti-emotionalism, and general repression of instincts, vilification of human nature, and a punitive attitude toward people who differ socially.

"A 'fascistic type' conservatism goes hand in hand with prejudice," Dr. Frenkel-Brunswik said. "This type of conservatism advocates taking the law into one's own hands, and using force to return to a mode of life long since a matter of history. This type of conservatism must be distinguished from the true conservatism of American democratic traditions, where extreme prejudice is not often found."

The psychologist said it is interesting to note that inmates of San Quentin prison, all of whom have committed some act of aggression against society, rate high on prejudice. She added that this fits in with the rest of the pattern of the prejudiced personality.

*Science News Letter, September 7, 1946*

## EXPLOSIVES

## Mining Made Easier With Shaped Charges

► BAZOOKA-STYLE blasting charges, with hollow noses, promise higher efficiency, lower costs and greater safety in hard-rock mining. This is indicated by results of experimental work conducted at the property of the National Tunnel and Mines Company, Tooele, Utah.

Bazooka projectiles exploding outside the armor of tanks pierced it with penetrating tongues of "hard" flame leaping out of conical hollows cut into the forward ends of their explosive charges. W. T. Warren, general superintendent of the company, decided that the same principle would be worth a try on rock, as it might eliminate a good deal of laborious drilling, or the use of excessively large powder charges plastered on the outside with mud.

He was joined by a former Navy officer, E. O. McAlister, who had wartime experience with underwater demolitions, and is now in charge of the continuing experiments.

The most efficient charge for mining purposes, it was discovered, is a block of ordinary blasting explosive with a hemispherical cavity in the face to be set against the rock. A little space, or "stand-off distance," between charge and rock improves efficiency.

Preliminary results, largely on big boulders on the floor and hanging rock "fingers" overhead, have been highly encouraging. Only a fraction of the labor formerly required for placing the charge is now necessary, and the same demolition effects can be obtained with less than half the powder.

*Science News Letter, September 7, 1946*

Agricultural experts estimate that one farm rat eats \$2 worth of grain per year and destroys an additional \$20 worth.

Continuous flooding of a rice field, from before or just after seeding until near harvesting time, controls weeds; they cannot get their first leaves into the air, although the rice can.



*U. S. Army Air Forces Photo*

**MAN FROM MARS?—No, an Army Air Forces air crew member in the new pressure suit that will enable airmen to live while flying as high as 62,000 feet. Flying at this altitude without such a suit has previously been impossible for airmen.**