

GENERAL SCIENCE

U.S. Seen Ahead in Using Scientists in Government

► THE UNITED STATES Government is making a better attempt than Great Britain to use scientists in high administrative posts, believes Sir Charles P. Snow, an expert on defining the role of science in politics.

Scientists do not yet play their full part in politics, said the British scientist and author at Catholic University, Washington, D. C. Men of science should be allowed to help make political decisions, but there is still a gap in communication between scientists and the non-scientists. This gap is lessening faster in the U.S. than in England, he added.

More scientists are entering Washington than are infiltrating Whitehall, the center of the British Government. This situation occurs in the United States because of the more general level of American education, as contrasted to the specialized educational system in England.

There can be much danger in having only a few powerful scientific advisors acting as high administration officials, he pointed out, for they can obtain too much power. Most of the time, no one understands what the scientists are saying, so everyone thinks they are right.

Part of the danger could be alleviated by having more scientists in politics to understand and exchange thoughts and ideas among each other.

"We communicate with each other far too little," said the master of communication, author of several novels including "The Affair" and "Corridors of Power." There is a gap in communications between races and religions as well as between science and nonscience.

"Yet hope is coming up in the sky," he said. There are certain signs that the next 20 years will be more full of hope than 20 years ago in making the best of our intelligence and good will to remedy the ills of the world.

Sir Charles was presented with a diamond jubilee medal at the Catholic University's 75th anniversary celebration in Washington, D. C.

• Science News Letter, 85:351 May 30, 1964

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Names and Credit Worry Scientists and Journals

► SCIENTISTS are worried about how to tell from the way a science report is signed just who did the principal work and deserves the prime credit for the research reported.

Recognizing that jealousy, grievance and misunderstanding threaten the team effort in research, Dr. Irvine H. Page of the Cleveland Clinic recommended in Science, 144:139, 1964, that the first scientist listed as an author be the one most intimately concerned with both the work and the writing. In some cases the last person listed in a string of authors is the leader of the research, and in others the head of the laboratory is routinely listed as the senior author.

In other cases the first-named author is young and needed the push.

Some editors refuse to accept an article with more than three or four authors. Others will take ten or more. Some laboratories include the names of technicians and medical students.

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Nature Note

Trout

► A FLASH OF COLOR in a swiftly-flowing stream is a welcome sight to the trout fisherman.

This missile-shaped fish, which thrives in fresh and salt waters all over the world, is probably the most popular and best-loved game fish. It belongs to the same family as the salmon and can be identified by the small, fleshy fin far down the back.

Although most trout prefer water temperatures below the 50- to 65-degree Fahrenheit range, some species thrive in waters as warm as 75 degrees. Not all species are found in clear, cold, rapid streams.

The lake trout, *Salvelinus namaycush*, is the largest one and prefers the quiet waters of a deep lake.

Spawning in most species occurs in the autumn or winter after the trout leave the ocean and migrate up streams and brooks. The female digs a hole, or redd, in the gravel bottom and lays as many as 20,000 eggs in the case of the lake trout. After the male fertilizes the eggs, the female covers them with gravel. The eggs remain in the gravel 40 to 70 days before hatching.

Other familiar members of the trout family include the brown trout, *Salmo trutta*, the rainbow trout, *Salmo gairdneri*, the cutthroat trout, *Salmo clarki*, and the brook trout, *Salvelinus fontinalis*.

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