

promise," he said, "he was directed, practically forced, back to the Negro academic world."

In the medical sciences discrimination showed itself in the refusal of white hospitals to admit Negroes as residents or interns until the 1940s. Negro doctors could not obtain affiliation with white hospitals until the mid-1950s.

Even today, the color line in medicine is most tenacious. While Negro patients will seek out white physicians, the reverse almost never occurs in urban areas.

A rare exception is Dr. Theodore K.

Lawless, an outstanding Chicago dermatologist. His extraordinary reputation in diseases of the skin—which seems to have the same problems whatever its color—has won him an enormous bi-racial clientele. "There are a lot of bright Negroes out doing some brilliant things. What they require is exposure and attention," said Dr. Finley.

He believes that they are beginning to receive that necessary exposure and attention today, as the white society moves over respectfully to make room for the Negro in science.

• Science News Letter, 87:218 April 3, 1965

GENERAL SCIENCE

'Kept' Science Ruinous

► FEDERAL DOMINATION of science may lead the United States down the primrose path.

The nation could face rule by a mediocre scientific clique that persists in error to the point of final catastrophe.

This possibility was advanced by Dr. Hans Morgenthau, University of Chicago political scientist, in an address prepared for the Washington Colloquium on Science and Society at American University, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Morgenthau stated that the nuclear age has strengthened the power of the government over the people and has also brought to the fore a new kind of ruler, "the scientific elite."

This elite is gaining more power because its members have knowledge the layman does not. Therefore, scientific advice to political leaders is becoming the gospel.

Along with a rise in power of scientists could come a stifling of their creativity by "commitment to the purposes of state." Money—lots of it—is the bait, drawing science into selected channels.

Should the avenue the Government has opened turn out to be a blind alley, Dr. Morgenthau warned, then science will suffer because "it cannot be easy for the scientists and administrators who have committed large human and material resources and their scientific reputations (to) admit they were wrong and all these resources were wasted."

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration was cited as a prime example of large scale and virtually irrevocable public commitment.

Such commitments, he said, "may well make for persistence in error, rationalized and justified by the expectation that all that is needed for success is just another major effort.

"Therefore, major effort may well follow major effort in futility—until catastrophe takes the place of timely retreat."

Not only does this threat exist but it is magnified by the artificial barriers of secrecy.

Dr. Morgenthau charged that new scientific knowledge development under Government auspices is kept not only from the public but also from other scientists in other branches of the elite corps.

How then is the nation to survive and overcome the obstacles raised? Dr. Morgenthau told SCIENCE SERVICE he has no pat

answers but "scientific education of the layman" is one solution.

"The politically aware scientist has no advantage over the scientifically informed layman; and if the former is not politically aware, he is even inferior to the latter. They both try to anticipate the future by guessing.

"The scientist's monopoly of the answers to the questions of the future is a myth."

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GENERAL SCIENCE

National Museum Act Could Increase Status

► THE PRESTIGE and authority of the U.S. National Museum of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., may be enhanced by a bill recently introduced in the Senate.

In an effort to preserve and coordinate inherited treasures in museums throughout the country, the "National Museum Act of 1965" would empower the director of the National Museum, Frank A. Taylor, to report on U.S. museums and their activities each year. He would also advise and cooperate with the U.S. Government in aiding these museums, cooperate with them in solving their problems and training programs, prepare publications and help improve museum techniques.

The National Museum is a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution, whose Secretary is now S. Dillon Ripley. The Smithsonian originated with the bequest of wealthy British chemist James Smithson. Mr. Smithson died in 1829, leaving an estate of \$500,000 to the United States of America, "to found at Washington under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

Starting as a library and museum, the Institution now encompasses some 59 million objects, including Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis, fine gem collections and John Glenn's space capsule, in various bureaus such as the Museum of Natural History, Museum of History and Technology, National Air Museum, U.S. National Museum, National Zoological Park, Freer Gallery, and National Gallery of Art.

The bill, introduced by Sen. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

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