

Social Sciences Notes

PARAPSYCHOLOGY

Russia to Do ESP Test

A large scale study is scheduled to be carried out in Russia on mental telepathy.

According to the Novosti Press Agency, Soviet scientists hope to involve thousands of people in many cities of the Soviet Union in the telepathic experiment slated for this month.

As planned by the Scientific and Technical Society of Radio Engineering and Radio Communication, people in Moscow will "beam" mental images of specific objects while recipients in other parts of the country try to tune in. Participation is voluntary and anyone wishing to be a receiver will find the telephone number of a Moscow center in his local newspaper.

The Society's Bioinformation Commission has conducted other telepathic experiments, one supposedly involving mental transmission over a distance of 3000 kilometers from Moscow to Novosibirsk, reports Novosti.

The Moscow man broadcast images of six objects, including a small spring and a coffee pot, giving 15 minutes to each. In Novosibirsk, the receiver came out with "metallic . . . luster . . . looks like a coil."

PSYCHOBIOLOGY

Caltech Gets Brain Grant

The California Institute of Technology is to become an important locus for work in breaking the "brain code." A seven-year grant totaling more than one million dollars has been awarded Caltech for research into the brain mechanisms underlying behavior and memory.

The grant backs up Caltech's decision to expand from the physical sciences into psychobiology and related social sciences.

Of several studies currently underway at Caltech, one has already given evidence of the way in which the brain gets wired for work.

Rather than being a result of trial and error, brain cells and nerve fibers apparently hook up selectively. Almost from the time of its formation in the fetus, each brain cell has its own chemical label and a chemical affinity with specific nerve fibers, reported Dr. Roger W. Sperry, who heads the psychobiology research.

This description of brain function could explain how heredity is carried through in animal behavior.

DRUG ABUSE

Narcotic Laws Need Revamping

A total revamping of the dangerous drug laws is needed before marijuana and LSD can be put in their proper legal slots, according to drug expert Dr. Donald B. Louria of New York's Bellevue Hospital and Cornell University.

He called for a separate category of hallucinogens which would remove marijuana from "its legal heroin embrace" and also put LSD under some restraint.

Dr. Louria recommended more severe punishment for illicit manufacture and sale of LSD than is now offered, but believes that making possession of the drug a misdemeanor is sufficiently restrictive. Some states have already made possession a felony.

In addition, unauthorized manufacture, sale or pos-

session of LSD ingredients must be proscribed, said Dr. Louria. Contrary to popular belief, LSD is very difficult to synthesize unless its immediate precursors—lysergic acid and derivatives—are available.

ACCIDENTS

English Study Drunk-driving

The British Government is engaged in analyzing for alcoholic content the blood of every motorist killed on the roads between November and the end of February.

The results should reveal how much holiday drinking contributes to fatal accidents compared to other times of the year and how much weekend victims drink compared to weekday victims.

Tests carried out during Christmas two years ago in England revealed that 38 percent of the drivers killed had alcohol in their blood, leading the Minister of Transport to score "drink happy" drivers. But the Royal Automobile Club objected and in its own snap check into holiday deaths claimed that alcohol was the major factor in only two cases to date.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Clark Kerr Heads Study

Former University of California president Clark Kerr has been named to head the Carnegie Foundation's high-powered study into the future of higher education.

A main thrust of the study will be to judge whether the American public is likely to pay the increasing costs of higher education—which over the next decade is expected to have to accommodate three million more students—a 50 percent rise. If not the public, what other sources, including contributions from corporations, private donations and student tuitions, will fill the gap?

Also, the study will estimate how many new colleges and universities will be needed, what kind, how much research will they be able to undertake, how much community service, how much cultural leadership?

Ironically Dr. Kerr was fired as president of the university—now largest in the world—at the same time the state-supported university's funds were cut.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Vietnam Maneuver Suggested

A Princeton University social scientist suggested last week that the United States may be able to force North Vietnam to the bargaining table through Russia.

Bombing of North Vietnam has drawn Soviet aid into the war, giving that country some leverage with Hanoi, and indirectly the Viet Cong, that no one had in 1954 when the Geneva agreements failed, according to Dr. John T. McAlister, Jr., research associate at Princeton's Center of International Studies.

The United States could pose a dilemma for the Soviet Union by first suspending bombing and then issuing an ultimatum to Hanoi that unless aggression stops, the bombing will be resumed on a larger scale, against all North Vietnam targets.

Russia would neither want to fight the United States nor see its ally destroyed. Its alternative would be to put the stops on North Vietnam, wrote Dr. McAlister in the January issue of "World Politics."