

Social Science Notes

EDUCATION

The CIA and Academia

Several large-scale investigations of the Central Intelligence Agency were proposed in Congress last week and the White House proposed its own review as a result of the furor over CIA funding for the National Student Association. The student group was supported by the intelligence agency in an effort to counter communist youth activities overseas. But the disclosure renewed fears of encroachment on academic integrity. Whether any ensuing investigation will reveal the full scope of the association between U.S. intelligence and the academic community, forged during the hot years of the cold war, is an open question.

So far several universities have admitted working with covert CIA contracts for social science studies. But there are others, as a spokesman for the Senate Subcommittee on Government Research, inquiring into Federal support for the social sciences, acknowledged last week.

Among social scientists, those most deeply shaken by the CIA issue have been the anthropologists.

Dr. Ralph Beals of the University of California at Los Angeles, in a report to his association on government support of research overseas, noted CIA involvement with anthropologists. Dr. Beals said there are "almost certainly" anthropologists who are giving material to the CIA and getting paid for it. Some even openly recruit for the CIA at conventions, he reports.

In response to the growing furor, President Johnson ordered Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach, HEW Secretary John W. Gardner and CIA Director Richard Helms to "formulate a policy" of "necessary guidance" for government agencies dealing with U.S. educational organizations.

POVERTY WAR

Poverty Cutbacks Part Blessing

Congressional cutbacks in this year's War on Poverty may have been a blessing in disguise. Bereft of a good part of their Federal poverty funds, a number of localities managed to come through with enough money of their own to keep their community action agencies from going under.

Sargent Shriver, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, reported last week that Louisville, Ky., found money to fill in the cuts. So did New Haven, Chattanooga and Knoxville. LaFayette, Ga., raised \$30,000. Pontiac, Mich., raised an additional 10 percent over its local share. And in Selma, Ala., whose Community Action Program is called Project Drains, the local share has become larger than the federal.

Shriver said he hopes Congress will not cut the CAP money again for 1968. Nevertheless, OEO discovered in the last few months a "terrific reservoir of local strength and support," inspired somehow by poverty programs, and occasioned in part by the cutbacks.

Analyzing the success of various CAP programs is a nut OEO has still to crack. Except for manpower and education programs which lend themselves to statistical analysis, community action is not easily evaluated. One pilot study so far has been done in St. Louis, showing their program to be a "good one," but it is "not changing the face of the poor in St. Louis." Otherwise, OEO has contracted with eight universities to do long-range community observations in their areas. As for data analysis, OEO is trying that too, but since communities are not comparable and poverty workers do not always put their figures in the right boxes, the data, from a computer's point of view is often "garbage."

Earth and Environment Notes

POLLUTION

Nitrogen Emissions Cutable

Up to 85 percent of nitrogen oxides in auto exhausts can be cut out by use of a simple new device, a U.S. Senate subcommittee in Los Angeles was told.

Nitrogen oxides have been among the principle chemical causes of automobile-produced smog. Emission control equipment required on all 1968 model cars will probably not be effective in clearing them from exhausts.

The new device, a feed-back system to be attached to a carburetor, was described by Dr. Lawrence M. Richards, a research vice president of the Atlantic Richfield Co., near Los Angeles.

The subcommittee, under Senator Edmund S. Muskie, (D-Me.), is holding hearings around the country on President Johnson's air pollution legislation.

OCEANOGRAPHY

Deep-Sea Iron Layer

A layer of tiny iron-rich particles that strongly reflects sonar have been found in the Atlantic Ocean by scien-

tists in the Optical Physics Division of the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory.

The particles showed up in samples of deep ocean layers taken at Key West, Fla., and Block Island, R.I. X-ray fluorescence and electron probe analysis indicates the particles probably contain a hydrated iron oxide. They range in size from .01 to .1 micron; but their origin is a mystery.

OCEANOGRAPHY

Fish Have Sharp Eyesight

Skipjack tuna have proved to be rather sharp-eyed fish in studies at the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries' Honolulu Biological Laboratory.

John C. Marr, who heads the laboratory, says they can distinguish objects the size of a pinpoint from two feet away. A related species, the kawakawa (little tunny), doesn't do nearly as well, he said.

The studies test the tuna's abilities to perceive details of objects as the objects become smaller and closer together. The work is aimed at developing new ways of catching the tasty fish, which apparently depends on sight to detect prey and avoid predators.