

the need for protection from the sea, each of the small, external, five-horse-power motors on the research submarine Trieste weighs about 600 pounds—"unreasonable," said the engineers.

The third technique is to mount equipment directly in sea water, but here the technology is least advanced of all.

Social Critics Assess Youth

If some U.S. students have alienated themselves from the political system, far greater numbers in both college and high school remain unaffected and uncommitted to any political struggle whatsoever.

And despite increasing militancy among young people, America's problem is still the uncommitted, according to a panel of well-known social commentators who met last week to discuss "Committed and Alienated Youth," at the annual Washington, D.C., meeting of American Orthopsychiatrists.

Public education "turns off" two groups of high school students—the Negro ghetto student and the upper-middle class student, says Dr. Alan F. Westin, author, lawyer and professor of political science at Columbia University.

Neither is committed to American political ideals—one because he does not see himself as ever being accepted; the other because he feels "no relevance between the political system and his own life." Isolated in suburbia the advantaged child goes through school feeling no impact from the social and political issues of the day, Dr. Westin points out.

Actually, the student only reflects social reality in the United States, says the political scientist. Whenever society does not realize its ideals, the schools are blamed. But studies indicate that only a "minority of the public at large is committed to the Bill of Rights," when the chips are down, he says.

The student "looks at his elders and does not see any great political sophistication," he says. "Many kids with the mind and leisure choose not to devote their talents to problems of social justice."

But there now exists an opening for those who would like to reform the teaching of social studies, so that they deal realistically with contemporary problems of liberty and equality—from wiretapping to race.

Some people, in fact, are saying the civil rights movement may be to social studies what Sputnik was to mathematics and the hard sciences. A group of professional social scientists is currently at work recasting social studies cur-

ricula, just as science was recast after Sputnik. But how good the new course will be and whether the schools will accept it are so far unknown.

At the college level as well, apathy is the rule for the vast majority, says Dr. Kenneth Keniston, professor of psychology at Yale Medical School and author of "The Uncommitted."

Turning to youthful campus activists, he continued, "Youthful alienation is not to be universally deplored." Some activists, he says, are able to turn their alienation to profit and become worthwhile adult critics on religion, politics and society.

Dr. Christian Bay, political scientist from the University of Alberta in Canada, sees the political activists in their most complimentary light. He says the activist groups include a higher proportion of "truly autonomous" individuals than the "pseudo student government groups." No intricate psychological theory is needed to account for their fervor, says Dr. Bay. Their sense of politics comes naturally to people with a healthy self-esteem.

Dr. Bay predicts that political action will grow to embrace all of collegiate education since it is firmly rooted in affluence. Earlier college movements, rooted in deprivation, petered out when depression passed. To Dr. Bay the students offer a "basis for some optimism about the academic future and perhaps a ray of hope for society on the North American continent."

Less enthused is Dr. William Kornhauser of the University of California at Berkeley. While not disparaging the value of political action on campus, Dr. Kornhauser, a sociologist, says he is unhappy that the activists are not more interested in ideas. They are politically sophisticated, he says, but "not very open intellectually." In his opinion, they are more interested in action than ideas.

Patent Policy Study

A study of what happens to patents generated by Federal research funds is underway, and currently is putting a damper on the once hot Senate debate on the ownership of such rights (SN: 12/31/66).

Harbridge House, a management consulting firm, is undertaking the study for the White House. It will look at all Federally-funded projects, and their outcome in terms of patentable ideas and their exploitation. An earlier study of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's patent output found there is little spin off into private use, and of the few patents waived to industry few, if any, are making anybody rich.

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