

Blackett Decries Cuts

The rich northern countries must give more aid in science, technology, and money to the poorer southern nations unless we "really want our grandchildren to look back in anger and see us as affluent fools."

This warning came from Prof. P. M. S. Blackett, president of Britain's Royal Society, speaking to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"At the present time the outlook for more aid is very bleak," Prof. Blackett declared. Instead of increasing financial and technical aid, he pointed out, the richer nations are actually decreasing it.

"No doubt there are many causes, psychological, political and economic. Perhaps the donors expected a gratitude they did not receive. . . . In the U.S. and in Britain particularly, balance of payments difficulties inhibit more aid. I deeply regret that the British Government has cut its aid by eight percent."

Noting that the donor countries contributed one percent of their gross national products to developing lands in 1963 and 1964, Prof. Blackett said this input allowed the poor countries to make substantial advances and "may well have staved off complete disaster in many parts of the world."

But he urged that aid be stepped up to two percent of the GNP, saying that at this level it would pose no hardship on the richer countries and "come nearer the mark if the poor countries are to be given a good start along the difficult road into the modern industrial world."

"The situation is dangerous," he warned. Prof. Blackett quoted Dr. B. R. Sen, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization:

"In this age of science which every day brings countries and nations closer, with political consciousness stirring the vast masses who until now had accepted poverty and hunger as preordained, against the background of unprecedented population growth which threatens even the present meager supplies, the problem of ensuring conditions which may allow man everywhere to live in dignity can no longer be left to be dealt with by each nation on its own. We must be warned that in the present situation lie the seeds of unlimited progress or unlimited disaster, not only for individual nations but for the whole world."

Does Law Make Crime?

Economists, concerned with the "upper-world" of respectable business, have neglected the study of the application of economic laws to the criminal underworld.

And their insights might have a radical effect on "crime" and criminals, according to Dr. T. C. Schelling, Harvard University professor of economics.

From the economists' view, "a large part of organized crime is the selling of commodities and services contrary to law. This includes dope, prostitution, gambling, liquor under prohibition, pornography and stolen goods."

"In what is not usually considered the underworld," Dr. Schelling continues, "black markets include gold, rationed commodities and coupons in wartime, loans and rentals above controlled prices, theater tickets in New York."

The law itself forces certain goods into the black market, Dr. Schelling notes. "Essentially the question is whether (the law's) goal of somewhat limiting the consumption of narcotics, gambling, prostitution, abortion or anything else that is forced by law into the black market is or is not outweighed by the costs to society of creating a criminal industry."

He didn't make any recommendations; he simply felt the subject ought

to be studied from new vantage points.

In an address before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dr. Schelling advocated a "strategic" approach to the problems of crime, instead of the current tactical methods aimed at catching and punishing individual criminals.

The black markets, he pointed out, protect criminals from legitimate competitors, provide an incentive to corrupt the police, and teach their customers contempt for the law.

"It may be—this is an important question for research—that without these important black markets crime would become substantially decentralized, lacking the kind of organization that makes it enterprising, safe and able to corrupt public officials," he suggested.

"The greatest gambling enterprise in the United States," Dr. Schelling declared, "has not been significantly touched by organized crime. That is the stock market. . . . Ordinary gambling ought to be one of the hardest industries to monopolize because almost anybody can compete. . . . If ordinary brokerage firms were encouraged to take accounts and buy and sell bets by telephone for their customers, it is hard to see how racketeers could get any kind of grip on it."

HEPATITIS

Single Form Postulated

A relatively easy cure for the liver ailment, hepatitis, was reported by a New York physician who says the supposed "two forms"—serum and infectious—are basically one.

Admitting that the incubation and route of infection of the supposed two forms of the disease may differ, Dr. Robert Freymann of New York Medical College believes they are basically the same infectious disease—most likely of virus origin.

"This logic is based on the deduction," he explained, "that after all, serum hepatitis was originally caused by a needle or syringe containing the germ-carrying blood or plasma of a patient with infectious hepatitis. Once the illness is developed, no difference can be found in the two."

During nearly 40 years of practice, he said, he has never seen a direct contact case of hepatitis developing within a family in any reasonable space of time unless there was a common source of infection.

This is further documented by the fact that no recorded cases exist among doctors, nurses or other medical personnel who developed the infection by close association with hepatitis patients, except by becoming the victim of an infected syringe or needle, transfusion contact or germ-carrying food, he said.

So far, all over the modern world, he pointed out, hepatitis is treated exactly the same way as when it was called yellow jaundice and interpretation as a viral disease was unthought of. This is by bed rest, fat-poor, high-protein diet and a "prayer" for recovery.

With adequate, dependable drugs, he said, the disease can be conquered and the hazard of permanent liver damage eliminated.

There is no reason why a patient should not go about his daily tasks during treatment, the physician believes, inasmuch as the disease is infectious rather than contagious from man to man.