

SOCIOLOGY

Types of Union Men

Two sociologists find that a man's attitude toward his union membership falls into seven categories, ranging from "ideological" to "unwilling."

► UNION MEMBERS are of seven types, two sociologists suggest.

The types can be identified depending on their attitude toward the union, Joel Seidman, associate professor of social sciences at the University of Chicago, and Daisy L. Tagliacozzo of Wright Junior College report.

The union types were found in a study of a local union of farm-equipment workers in Chicago, a plumbers' local in a large Midwestern city, and a coal-miners' local in central Illinois.

The types as described by the sociologists are:

1. The "ideological unionist," who is "the extreme case of enthusiasm and devotion." He thinks union activity will achieve a different social order; sees union-management relationships as one aspect of the class struggle; tends to know something of the history of labor, and rejects any suggestion that he be appointed to a foreman's rank. These are few in number, the sociologists found, and are mainly in metropolitan areas "where the radical political groups have strength."

2. The "good" union man, who accepts the union's goals fully and supports all of its objectives. He, unlike the "ideological unionist," lacks any desire to change the social order. Most active unionists, the study showed, such as men who serve as stewards, are "good" union men. This group, together with a sprinkling of ideological unionists, makes up the leaders and the active groups within the union.

3. The "loyal but critical" members, who make up the dissident faction and, although believing in unionism in principle, often quit because they are at odds with the local leadership.

4. The "crisis activist," the man who is relatively inactive and "content to let the officers run the union." He does man the picket line and attend meetings, however. These men do not join unions as an aggressive step against management, but rather to defend themselves against management's abuses, whether actual or potential, the sociologists found.

5. The "dually oriented union member" is so-called because he completely supports the union, but views production and efficiency from the point of view of management.

6. The "card-carrier," who is completely uninterested in the union.

7. The "unwilling unionist," which speaks for itself.

Of the last, the Chicago researchers explain that some dislike the union because

they have been hampered in their progress by seniority regulations, or because they feel their skills entitle them to promotion on their own merits.

There are also some anti-unionists.

A full report of the study is made in the *American Journal of Sociology*. The original research was under the auspices of the University of Chicago's Industrial Relations Center.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1956

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Thick-Shelled Eggs Produced

► EGGS with thicker, more durable shells may soon be on the market.

University of Wisconsin scientists have shown that shell quality is inherited. Dr. William Henry McGibbon has developed strains of hens that lay hard-shelled eggs, other strains that lay soft-shelled varieties.

Each thin shell makes up about eight percent of the egg's total weight. The thick shells, on the other hand, constitute about 11% of the total egg weight.

The stronger shells are considered more desirable. They hold up better under handling and marketing.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1956

GENERAL SCIENCE

Retired Scientists Teach

► RETIRED ENGINEERS, scientists and professors throughout the United States may provide many cities with a stop-gap solution to their current, critical shortage of teachers.

At least one city, New York, is already seriously considering such a program to meet its shortage of science and mathematics teachers. Other cities, particularly with large universities and industrial establishments nearby, may soon follow suit.

Presently, metropolitan New York lacks 47 full-time science teachers needed to staff 235 science classes in high schools come this fall. This represents about six percent of the total number of science teachers employed in the high schools there.

To correct the situation, Dr. Joseph W. Barker, a member of the Advisory Committee on Science Manpower, appointed by the New York City Board of Education, suggested that retired engineers, scientists and professors be employed part-time to meet the shortage.

● RADIO

Saturday, August 4, 1956, 1:45-2:00 p.m. EDT
"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the CBS Radio Network. Check your local CBS station.

Edwin Fisher, director of the U. S. Weather Bureau hurricane project at New York University, will discuss "Hurricanes."

HORTICULTURE

Fish Oil Kills Citrus Fungus

► A FISH OIL fungus-killer for citrus trees is being developed by scientists near Miami, Fla.

Although fish oils have already been shown a good fungicide for citrus trees, Dr. Boris Sokoloff hopes to combine them with quaternary ammonium salts, a powerful bacteria-killer, to make a highly potent citrus spray.

Working under contract with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Dr. Sokoloff is trying to combine the beneficial effects of the quaternary ammonium salts and fish oils into a single compound.

Extensive laboratory and orchard tests must be carried out before the full value of the fish oil products can be established. The best method of application also remains to be discovered. It is believed, however, that some type of spray will be most effective.

The quaternary ammonium salts were derived from unsaturated fatty acids of menhaden oil. A description of the chemical appears in the *Commercial Fisheries Review* (June).

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