

## EVOLUTION

# Antievolution Not Dead

Report by WATSON DAVIS, who covered the 1925 Scopes Trial

► ANTIEVOLUTION is far from dead in Tennessee, where in the little town of Dayton 35 years ago the famous Scopes trial was held.

Still on the statute books is a 1925 law that made it unlawful for any teacher in tax-supported schools "to teach any theory that denies the story of the Divine Creation of man as taught in the Bible, and to teach instead that man has descended from a lower order of animals."

It is usual to hear good citizens say that the law is a dead letter and unenforced. It is true that teachers are not being arrested and brought to trial, not even in a test case as John T. Scopes was in the case in which Bryan and Darrow were legal adversaries.

Nevertheless, the prohibition against teaching evolution is effective, far more effective than prohibition of alcoholic beverages stronger than beer. The mere possession of hard liquor is illegal but no one with the price goes thirsty.

No teacher who wants to hold his job teaches evolution. There are too many fundamentalist preachers ready to cause any foolhardy professor to risk trouble in that way. It would be far safer to take an illegal drink. The vocal pro-evolutionist would not be hauled into court but he probably would find his job insecure, his

contract unrenewed or the climate un congenial.

Unlike alcohol, there is no prohibition on students drinking at the fount of scientific wisdom, quaffing great gulps of Darwinism, even during school hours, if the forbidden knowledge sufficiently intrigues them. The good ministers who believe literally in the Genesis account of creation (who believe, as one of them proclaimed, the Bible cover to cover and the covers as well!) may intimidate and close the minds of some students with their constant harangues, but the students are at least free to read what they will.

When in November the motion picture "Inherit the Wind," which recalls the Scopes trial in fictional form, is shown throughout the country, there should be a realization of the intellectual and moral principles involved in the antievolution situation. The conflicts of the "monkey trial" of 1925 are more vivid in the movie than they were in reality almost two generations ago. Emotions are sharpened and the points of view are punched.

As a result of the movie there may be a new crop of Biblical defenders. There may also be a new realization that the freedom of teaching may be worth defending. After 35 years there may be a renewed concern that there shall not be prohibition against

teaching of any sort, especially science teaching, no matter how influential, vocal and dominant one opposing group may be.

Freedom of information in our schools ranks with the freedom of press and speech guaranteed in the First Amendment of the U. S. Constitution. Such freedom is abridged by the restrictive Tennessee law.

Just as generations of Americans have struggled to practice or not practice religion as they see fit, so the next few years may bring defense anew of the right of students to learn about all the ideas that are extant. "Inherit the Wind" should speed this process.

• Science News Letter, 78:103 August 13, 1960

## PSYCHOLOGY

## Laws on Psychology Relatively New in U. S.

► THE PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSION, from the point of view of legal status, is relatively new in the United States, Dr. John G. Darley, executive secretary of the American Psychological Association, told colleagues at the Sixteenth International Congress for Psychology in Bonn, Germany.

"The first law affecting psychology," he said, "was passed in Connecticut in 1945."

In the early years of psychology in the U. S. by far the greater number of those called psychologists were employed in universities and colleges. Today, however, about half are found in industry, in Federal, state and local governmental agencies and in school systems, with a small fraction in private practice.

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## TECHNOLOGY

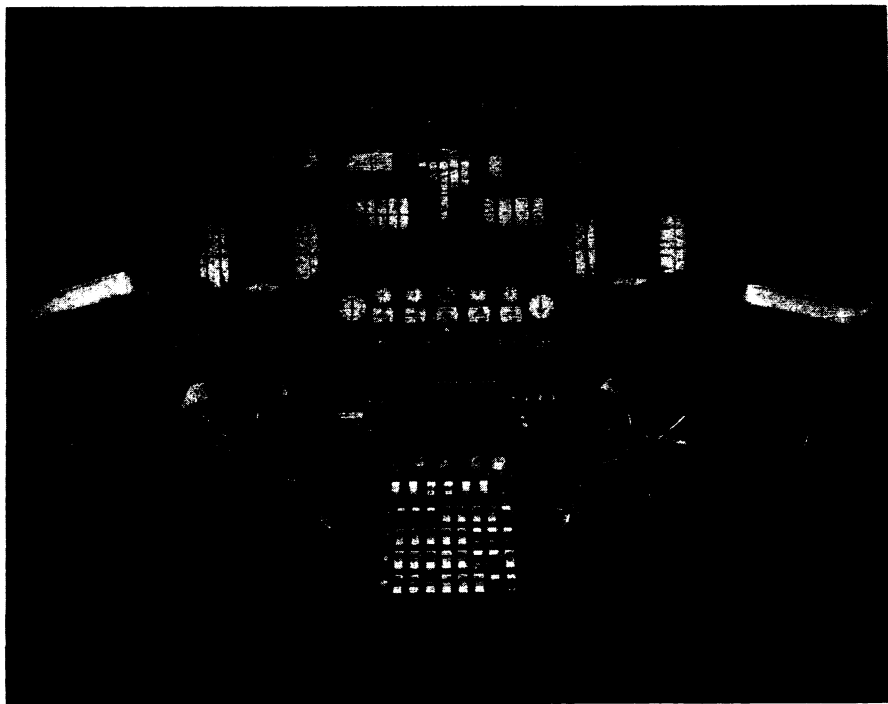
## Method of Designing Space Vehicle Cockpits

► A SCIENTIFIC METHOD of designing cockpits for space vehicles and traditional aircraft that will increase pilot efficiency and human safety has been developed jointly by Lear, Inc., and the Wright Air Development Division of the U. S. Air Force.

Air Force engineers, headed by Edward L. Warren, and Lear engineers and psychologists said that the method for efficient cockpit design was also applicable to virtually any activity where successful operation depends on numerous, varied and complicated instrumentation supplying data to an operator who must use the information to control an activity.

Overall, the state of cockpit design in conventional aircraft has lagged far behind that of aerodynamics, propulsion and structural design. Many safety engineers today believe that a number of accidents commonly credited to pilot error actually were caused by the inability of the cockpit to support pilots with essential and interpretable data in a critical and stressful period of flight. The instrumentation problems experienced in conventional aircraft are multiplied many times in space flight.

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**MARK IV COCKPIT**—This full-sized and semi-operational cockpit, made of aluminum and wood, was designed by Lear, Inc., in conjunction with the Flight Control Laboratory of the Air Force's Wright Air Development Division. The model is the product of a year-long study to determine a systematic method of cockpit design.