

Seeks Elimination Of Petty Research Projects

WASHINGTON -- To the consternation of some congressmen, the U.S. government—in the midst of its agony over the balance of payments—is paying Foreign Scientists to investigate:

Death rates among Italian railroad employees.

The social integration of Iranian industrial workers.

Changing patterns of family life in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

The teeth, dental arches, jaws, face, and skull of Australian aborigines.

The distribution of power in communities where Bedouin Nomads and settled Oasis dwellers meet.

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THESE ARE just a few of the foreign research projects which the House Government Operations Committee suggests should be curtailed to help stem the outflow of dollars.

Its subcommittee on research and technical programs has been concerned about the problem at least since 1966 when it asked the Budget Bureau to set specific guidelines limiting dollar-financed research in foreign countries.

Though dollar obligations for foreign research have now dropped to \$20 million or so per year from \$25.6 million in 1966, the subcommittee is still concerned that too many grants like the \$17,400 outlay to study death rates among Italian railroad employees are being made.

It points out that most of these funds are going into developed countries (Western Europe, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa) which "could well afford to support their own research."

Some members of the subcommittee feel strongly that U.S. government agencies are using specific research projects as a cover for general support to institutions and individuals of renown.

Though the subcommittee does not identify individual foreign scientists receiving such support, they are known to include such widely known figures as the anthropologist Louis Leakey.

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SCIENCE MAGAZINE, a publication of the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science, accused the subcommittee of pandering to "that portion of the population which finds many of the topics of scientific research somewhat absurd" when it issued its report following this year's hearings.

Indeed, the subcommittee did cite the \$48,687 grant for dental research among the Australian Aborigines as an example of non-urgent science.

But the subcommittee chairman, Rep. Henry Ruess (D-Wis.), has a wide reputation in Congress as a solid supporter of Scientific Research. Hardly any member of the subcommittee could be classified as "anti-science."

Ruess' special interest in the dollar drain for foreign investigation stems from his other Congressional assignments as chairman of the House Subcommittee on Internal Finance and as a member of the Joint Economic Committee.

When the subcommittee on research and technical programs held its 1966 hearings, it asked the Budget Bureau to limit foreign research projects to those urgently needed by the United States.

It said further they should be limited to projects which cannot be conducted in the United States or cannot be funded through other sources.

Now the committee charges the Budget Bureau has not followed through on these recommendations, and it says the deterioration in the balance of payments situation has made it even more urgent to eliminate non-urgent foreign research projects.

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REPORTING on its round of hearings this year, the subcommittee re-emphasized the recommendations it made in 1966.

Furthermore, it added that the agencies supporting these foreign research efforts—the Health, Education, and Welfare Department, the Atomic Energy Commission, the National Science Foundation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—produce special reports within three months.

In the special reports, the subcommittee wants to know whether projects now being supported fall into the urgent category, and, if not, what remedial action is being taken.

The subcommittee said it believes that "neither general exhortations for dollar for dollar economies nor massive arbitrary cuts in permissible foreign research is an appropriate policy."

"Even in a period of payments emergency, urgent research, which cannot be performed in the United States, and which will not be financed by the foreign country in question, may merit dollar financing. But in each and every instance, questions regarding the project's urgency, U.S. performance, and foreign financing must be asked, and overriding considerations found specifically to exist before dollars are released for projects."

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Booklet Helps Negro Jobless

A Negro instructor comments about working with black hard-core unemployed:

"Few Negroes understand that the white man can be stupid just like anybody else. We think the white man can't be stupid because he is The Man. He has kept us down for 300 years, so when he talks stupid we assume he is being derisive, leading us on with big promises."

This view of the problems plant personnel interviewers can have in communicating with the hard-core unemployed comes from the Research Institute of America, Inc. The booklet, titled "What Can You Do About the Hard-Core Unemployed?" packages such insights with practical advice to help small and medium-sized businesses that are answering the National Alliance of Businessmen's call to provide jobs for the hard-core unemployed.

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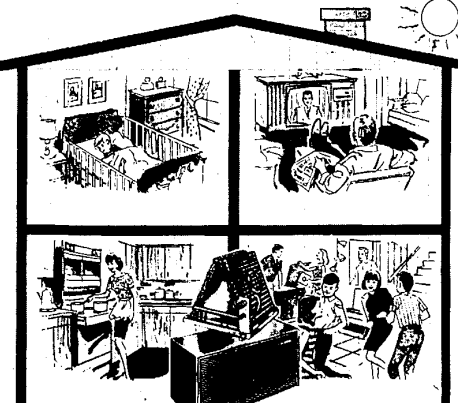
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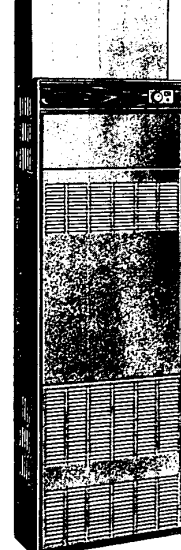
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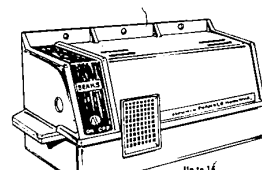
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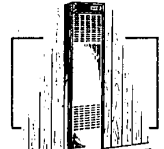
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