Ozarks) on “Southern public opinion and the Supreme Court,” Fred Masserik (University of California) on “Understanding others: theory and research on a cultural leitmotif,” and Harold Garfinkel (University of California) on “A study of decision-making in complex situations: an analysis of one chess tournament.” Donald P. Ray (National Academy of Economics and Political Science), secretary of the section, presided.

The success of this session of contributed papers indicates this type of presentation will be useful at future meetings as part of the sectional program. The occasion can provide an approach, at least, to limiting the problem of overspecialization among, as well as within, the fields of social science.

The Metric Association, an affiliated organization in Section K, presented a round-table discussion on “Metric Implementation in Pharmacy, Medicine, and Chemistry,” held jointly with AAAS Section Np-Pharmacy. John T. Johnson (University of California) presided. Other sessions in which Section K participated were “Science, Technology, and General Welfare in a Capitalist Society” with 16 AS Section P, together with the vice-presidential address of this section; and the joint symposia series of the Society for the Advancement of Criminology, the Association for the Psychiatric Treatment of Offenders, and the Institute for Research on Crime and Delinquency.

The section officers are deeply appreciative of the efforts of all who participated in the section program and made the Indianapolis sessions a notable success.

Two joint sessions were held by the section during the past year with the regular spring and fall sessions of the National Academy of Economics and Political Science at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. The spring sessions were on “The Middle East and Free World Security,” and the fall sessions on “The Economy of the U.S.S.R.” The National Social Science Honor Society Pi Gamma Mu collaborated with the National Academy and Section K in these meetings. The proceedings have been published by the National Academy.

Section K was fortunate in 1957 to have had the leadership provided by the distinguished social-statistician, Stuart A. Rice, as chairman. This year the equally distinguished economist, Joseph J. Spengler (Duke University) will serve as chairman, and another eminent economist, Solomon Fabricant (National Bureau of Economic Research), will begin initial service as a member-at-large of the section committee.

Donald P. Ray, Secretary

American Sociological Society (K4)

Population analysis and change, referred to in various other section meetings and in Paul B. Sears’ presidential address, received direct attention in three papers presented during a symposium on “Current Research on Population.” Philip Hauser and Os Dudly Duncan (University of Chicago) presented materials on demography as a science from the forthcoming volume The Study of Population: An Inventory and Appraisal. They concluded that demography fits the criteria for an observational science and that, despite the early stage of development of its data, methods, and accumulated knowledge, it can offer explanation and prediction of events at least in the short run.

T. Lynn Smith (University of Florida) demonstrated that official data on fertility are generally defective or lacking in Latin America. Presently the best approximations are obtained through the use of fertility ratios. Fertility is clearly very high throughout the area and is likely to remain so for several decades. Fertility in rural areas is generally higher than that in urban areas and, in Brazil at least, fertility rates for whites exceed those for colored.
P. K. Whelpton (Scripps Foundation), with Arthur Campbell and Ronald Freedman, reported on a national probability sample of married white women, aged 18 to 39, in terms of their fecundity, sterility, use of contraceptives, and expected family size. The study was undertaken in part to provide needed understanding of the extent to which the higher postwar fertility in the United States reflects an increase in family size as opposed to a mere change in the timing of marriages and births. The latter appears to be the more important; nevertheless, family size, as measured by completed fertility, may be rising by nearly one child over prewar levels.

Vincent H. Whitney, Program Chairman

American Statistical Association (K5)

During the morning session of the American Statistical Association there were 25 people present. The room had very adequate facilities—in fact, two chalkboards were made available for this session. The program was very stimulating. P. E Irick presented the material on "A statistically designed highway experiment" in an excellent manner, and the audience participated actively. The paper was 1 hour in length; the formal discussion and the audience discussion took another hour and three quarters. The whole problem of highway experimentation by means of statistical designs and techniques should be of interest to every citizen when one considers the size of the highway projects in the United States. Just this relatively small project is costing over $15 million.

The afternoon session, on "Application of a mathematical model in plastic tooling research," was poorly attended; this was disappointing because the Indiana Chapter of the ASA, as well as the ASQC, had indicated an interest in this subject. I suspect that the scheduling of sessions on a Saturday afternoon is not conducive to attendance, especially if people are not paid by their companies to attend sessions during this time. This conclusion is a bit disturbing but, I believe, realistic. Anyway, the session was modified a bit because only professional people were present and the paper had been written primarily for engineers, who could apply the statistical techniques to their problems.

Virgil L. Anderson, Program Chairman

History and Philosophy of Science (Section L)

In 1957 Section L was greatly handicapped by the illness of its secretary, Jane Oppenheimer, who broke her hip.