

Letters

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albeit obscurely, and thinking himself in opposition to my view.

Perhaps Williams thinks that application can be avoided altogether. I hesitate to presume that he is that naive. Legislators try to control human action by compulsion; political leaders (in a democracy), by persuasion; military leaders, by authority; educators, by logic and information; advertisers, by influence. By various combinations of means of differing legitimacy we control and manipu-

late each other. All societies—in however different ways—must control their members to some degree.

The social sciences, among other things, explore these controls—causes, effects, and effectiveness—and the results may be used to improve the means used. In the 20th century, social scientists advise government, business, and private citizens on a host of problems, all of which involve the control of human behavior. (I shall not discuss Williams' confusion between "control" and compulsion and his idea that compulsion is always practiced by the few over the many). Now, my central thesis was that

social scientists cannot as *scientists* determine what ends are to be served, though they can indicate what means are required by each and what effects attainment of the end may have, and this may influence the selection of ends. The situation is not very different from that of the physicists, though the similarities are obscured by misunderstandings such as those displayed by Williams. I do not believe, however, that these need deprive the social sciences of the scientific character that they share with the natural sciences.

ERNEST VAN DEN HAAG
New York, New York

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