

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Science serves its readers as a forum for the presentation and discussion of important issues related to the advancement of science, including the presentation of minority or conflicting points of view, rather than by publishing only material on which a consensus has been reached. Accordingly, all articles published in *Science*—including editorials, news and comment, and book reviews—are signed and reflect the individual views of the authors and not official points of view adopted by the AAAS or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated.

Editorial Board

1973

H. S. GUTOWSKY	GARDNER LINDZEY
ARTHUR D. HASLER	RAYMOND H. THOMPSON
RUDOLF KOMPFFER	EDWARD O. WILSON
DANIEL E. KOSHLAND, JR.	

1974

ALFRED BROWN	FRANK W. PUTNAM
JAMES F. CROW	MAXINE SINGER
SEYMOUR S. KETY	GORDON WOLMAN
FRANK PRESS	

Editorial Staff

Editor

PHILIP H. ABELSON

<i>Publisher</i>	<i>Business Manager</i>
WILLIAM BEVAN	HANS NUSSBAUM

Managing Editor: ROBERT V. ORMES

Assistant Editors: ELLEN E. MURPHY, JOHN E. RINGLE

Assistant to the Editor: NANCY TEIMOURIAN

News and Comment: JOHN WALSH, LUTHER J. CARRIER, DEBORAH SHAPLEY, ROBERT GILLETTE, NICHOLAS WADE, CONSTANCE HOLDEN, BARBARA J. CULLITON, SCHERRAINE MACK

Research News: ALLEN L. HAMMOND, WILLIAM D. MEIZ, THOMAS H. MAUGH II, JEAN L. MARK, ARIHUR L. ROBINSON

Book Reviews: SYLVIA EBERHART, KATHERINE LIVINGSTON, ANN SELTZ-PETRASH

Cover Editor: GRAYCE FINGER

Editorial Assistants: MARGARET ALLEN, ISABELLA BOULDIN, BLAIR BURNS, ELEANORE BUTZ, MARY DORFMAN, JUDITH GIVELBER, CORRINE HARRIS, NANCY HARTNAGEL, OLIVER HEATWOLE, CHRISTINE KARLIK, GINA BARI KOLATA, MARGARET LLOYD, JEAN ROCKWOOD, PATRICIA ROWE, LEAH RYAN, JOHN SCHAUER, LOIS SCHMILL, MICHAEL SCHWARTZ, RICHARD SEMIKLOSE, KENNETH SMITH, YA LI SWIGART

Guide to Scientific Instruments: RICHARD SOMMER

Membership Recruitment: GWENDOLYN HUDDLE;
Subscription Records and Member Records: ANN RAGLAND

Advertising Staff

<i>Director</i>	<i>Production Manager</i>
EARL J. SCHERAGO	PAITY WELLS

Advertising Sales Manager: RICHARD L. CHARLES

Sales: NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036: Herbert L. Burkland, 11 W. 42 St. (212-PE-6-1858); SCOTCH PLAINS, N.J. 07076: C. Richard Callis, 12 Unami Lane (201-889-4873); CHICAGO, ILL. 60611: John P. Cahill, Room 2107, 919 N. Michigan Ave. (312-DE-7-4973); BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF. 90211: Winn Nance, 111 N. La Cienega Blvd. (213-657-2772)

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE: 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phones: (Area code 202) Central Office: 467-4350; Book Reviews: 467-4367; Business Office: 467-4411; Circulation: 467-4417; Guide to Scientific Instruments: 467-4480; News and Comment: 467-4430; Reprints and Permissions: 467-4483; Research News: 467-4321; Reviewing: 467-4440. Cable: Advancesci, Washington. Copies of "Instructions for Contributors" can be obtained from the editorial office. See also page xv, *Science*, 28 September 1973. ADVERTISING CORRESPONDENCE: Room 1740, 11 W. 42 St., New York, N.Y. 10036. Phone: 212-PE-6-1858.

The Federal Science Advisory Apparatus

The structure of the changed federal science advisory apparatus is now taking form. In many ways, the old plan has been preserved, but significant differences are present. Guyford Stever has been designated the President's Science Adviser, named chairman of the Federal Council on Science and Technology, and assigned responsibilities in the foreign exchange programs. He also heads a group whose function is similar to that of the old Office of Science and Technology. In these respects, his position is similar to that of the former adviser, Edward David.

There are major differences, two of which have been repeatedly emphasized. One is that Stever's position in the hierarchy is lower than that formerly enjoyed by David. A second is that Stever has great responsibilities as director of the National Science Foundation. A third major difference, and one that has not received much attention, is in the President's Science Adviser's source of advice. An important component of the previous system was the President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC). This body of 18 experts was a weighty factor in science policy. In the early days of PSAC (the late 1950's), the committee functioned especially well. The tasks it worked on were largely related to the national defense. Members were physical scientists expert in those matters. With time, the problems changed, became more people-oriented—poverty, crime, transportation, and the environment, to name a few. It was no longer possible for a committee of 18 to include experts in all the areas.

Members of PSAC, being an elite group and occupying a lofty station in the scheme of things, fell victim to a common human disease: arrogance. This was manifested both publicly and privately, but mainly privately. Behind the scenes, PSAC attempted to wield great influence on the decisions and policies of the various governmental agencies. In the process, the part-time committee made full-time enemies. The major political blunder, however, was that members of PSAC occasionally disagreed publicly with the President. This occurred both in Democratic and in Republican administrations. Public and private squabbles are part of the democratic process, but when they occur in the President's own family, they add to his burdens and destroy the value of such an advisory group.

In his role as President's Science Adviser, Stever will find it necessary to seek counsel from scientists and engineers outside the government. In his position as director of the National Science Foundation, he already has access to many sources of advice. In addition, it appears that he will make some use of the potentialities of the scientific and technical societies. Many of these have organized committees on science policy matters. Some have established Washington offices.

On 10 September, Stever conducted a meeting of presidents or principal officers of most of the major scientific and engineering organizations. Societies totaling nearly a million members were represented. Stever indicated that he would welcome policy advice and recommendations concerning personnel. As specific problems arise, the appropriate organizations will be tapped. Thus it seems that a major difference between the new and the old apparatus will be the replacement of a small, formal, elite group by more broadly based ad hoc groups. The concept is worth a try. Whether it will be viable will depend on how effectively it is implemented by both sides.—PHILIP H. ABELSON