

LETTERS

Gaithersburg, Maryland

EDITOR:

The interviews with Dr. Bruce Murray on the U.S. space program (March *E&S*) are marvelous. Never before have I seen the reasons which I suspect are held by most of the backers of this program expounded with such refreshing candor.

Normally, our space expenditures are justified in terms of national security, the ultimate benefit to humanity of new scientific knowledge, or the enhancement of our prestige among other nations. But it's clear that in Dr. Murray's mind, he and his fellow explorers (a group which he identifies with the USA) are engaged in an exciting contest with their opposite numbers in the USSR (a group which he identifies with the Russian nation as a whole).

The object of any contest is, of course, to *win*, and the way to win a space contest is to get there first—wherever “there” may be defined to be. Never mind what you find when you get there—just get there *first*. So it's Bruce Murray vs. the Russians in a race to Jupiter, and Mr. Congressman, please appropriate a few extra million so that Murray and his buddies (i.e., the entire nation) can feel a glow of pride and satisfaction because they *WON!*

PHILIP HAYWARD '49

Calgary, Alberta

EDITOR:

The excellent article by Milton Plesset, “Nuclear Power and Nuclear Proliferation” (January *E&S*), has given much food for thought to us in the mineral and fossil fuels industries. There would seem to be greater future change in energy sources than has been recognized by exploration programs.

I want to take exception, however, to the assertion that termination of programs of underground nuclear explosions should be effected by all nuclear powers. On the contrary, the potential benefits of

subsurface nuclear applications are vast; and the step that needs to be taken is exactly the opposite of Professor Plesset's solution, namely, to rid the development field of political interference.

It is not reasonable and should therefore be unacceptable to any scientist considering matters of nuclear proliferation to proscribe non-military subsurface nuclear development. In fact, such a course is the proverbial throwing out of the baby with the bath water.

C. WARREN HUNT '45

Berkeley

EDITOR:

There are those of us among the alumni readers of *E&S* who were startled to find an article entitled “The Radical Right” by Robert A. Rosenstone in the March 1968 issue.

Considering that the Institute (which welcomed the off-beat intellectuals of a past generation) now calls upon that Messiah of the reactionaries, anti-intellectuals, and supporters of shoddy materialism—Ronald Reagan—to kick off the current fund drive . . . it was a pleasant shock to think that maybe liberal thought had again, somehow, seeped into Pasadena.

What a letdown to find that the great leader of liberal thought for whom this drum is being beaten is that well-known intellectual and exponent of true American thought, Barry Goldwater.

ROBERT STIRTON '30

Ontario

EDITOR:

Dr. Robert Rosenstone in the March issue gave what *E&S* called “an account of the Radical Right as he sees it today.”

It was a good expression of his opinion and, as such, well worth reading. There is no doubt that many of his points are valid.

However, it is my opinion that much of Dr. Rosenstone's disserta-

tion is of the nature of preaching the admonition “be objective; don't generalize.” This is good. It would then have been even better if he had ended with the old adage “do as I say, not as I do,” notwithstanding the generous admission in the body of his text that “There may be sound reasons for agreeing with some rightist views.” The credibility of this admission is strained, however, since Dr. Rosenstone seems to imply that all rightists are, or will become, the mentally defective Radical Right adherents which he describes with such fear and fervor.

WILLARD E. BAIER '23

Kingsville, Maryland

EDITOR:

Generally, I find most of the material in *E&S* both informative and factual; in fact, that is the reason I enjoy reading it. In the March 1968 issue, I feel that you have done the magazine, the Institute, and the alumni a disservice in the publication of the article by Robert Rosenstone.

I am sure that Dr. Rosenstone undoubtedly sincerely believes what he says, but I am afraid that he has allowed himself to become a radical thinker of at least as serious a degree as the kind he punishes so severely.

Frankly, I just don't think that this kind of writing belongs in our alumni magazine. I feel that material to be considered should be factual, logical, and analytically thought out. I am unable to convince myself that this has been done. There is an almost infinite variety of shades of viewpoints between Dr. Rosenstone's, which to me appears to be well into the radical left, and the radical right . . .

I visited Caltech in January and was told at that time that Caltech had become rather socialist oriented. To me, this was disappointing to hear because in true socialism (as I understand it) there is hardly a need for schools of Caltech's calibre.

continued on page 45

Engineering and Science

Letters . . . continued

I am willing to allow the author his point of view as a writer *insofar as he can soundly document its validity*, just as I will do the same for Linus Pauling or even Robert Welch on those few things of his which *can be so documented*. But I insist that all ideas, including my own if I were to publish such a paper, should be tested historically by study of past civilizations and by measure against the nature of man psychologically and also as an animal. (The veneer of civilization really isn't very thick, you know). If one's ideas stand up as factual against such a test, then it is worth considering them for publication.

I hope you understand the intent of these comments.

KEATS A. PULLEN, JR. '39

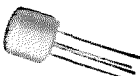

Santa Monica

EDITOR:

It makes me more than a little disappointed to see the article by Robert A. Rosenstone in the March issue of *Engineering and Science*. If it is satire, it has succeeded so well that it gives me the impression that it is sincere. If it is sincere, it appears to me to be one polarized opinion pointing an accusing finger at another presumed polarized opinion, damning a presumed technique and using the technique at the same time. It is not clear to me what purpose there was in publishing the article.

A. C. REED '29

Engineering and Science is a magazine about the California Institute of Technology—about the people who teach and study here, about their research and their ideas. The articles in the magazine are written by Caltech faculty, research men, students, and alumni—and by distinguished visitors to the campus. They are intended to give a sample of some of the current life, work, and thought at Caltech. On February 21, 1968, Robert S. Rosenstone, assistant professor of history, gave "The Radical Right Revisited: Some Perspectives" before the YMCA Luncheon Forum in the Athenaeum. E&S considered the talk newsworthy and edited it for publication in March.

Test this signal transistor 
at 1mA collector current...
and this power transistor 
at 1Amp collector current...
or any collector current you
select, from 20 μ A
to 1 Amp with the
WT-501A in-circuit/out-of-
circuit transistor tester

Battery operated, completely portable, RCA's new WT-501A tests transistors both in-circuit and out-of-circuit, tests both low- and high-power transistors, and has both NPN and PNP sockets to allow convenient transistor matching for complementary symmetry applications. The instrument tests out-of-circuit transistors for dc beta from 1 to 1000, collector-to-base leakage as low as 2 microamperes, and collector-to-emitter leakage from 20 microamperes to 1 ampere.

Collector current is adjustable from 20 microamperes to 1 ampere in four ranges, permitting most transistors to be tested at rated current level. A complete DC Forward Current Transfer Ratio Curve can be plotted. Three color-coded test leads are provided for in-circuit testing, and for out-of-circuit testing of those transistors that will not fit into the panel socket.

See your Authorized RCA Test Equipment Distributor, or write RCA Electronic Components, Commercial Engineering Department E-176W, 415 South Fifth Street, Harrison, New Jersey.

Extra features . . . RCA reliability . . . for only \$66.75*.

*Optional distributor resale price. Prices may be slightly higher in Alaska, Hawaii, and the West.

RCA

