

Letters to the Editor

John Rees

The friends, colleagues, and students of the late J. C. Rees intend to establish a fund that will provide for a suitable memorial to his memory in the form of an annual lecture or prize. Contributions whether large or small will be warmly welcomed from those who wish to be associated with the fund. Gifts should be sent to:

The J. C. Rees Memorial Fund,
Finance and Estates Office,
University College,
Swansea, SA3 8PP

Cheques should be made payable to University College, Swansea. Forms of covenant are available if required.

W. H. Greenleaf
University College
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Ethical Questions Raised

In January 1978, the Chief Justice of the United States appointed thirteen distinguished judges, scholars, and lawyers to the Federal Judicial Center Advisory Committee on Experimentation in the Law, and charged the committee to address the ethical and legal problems associated with experimentation in the legal system. I am pleased to call attention to its possible interest for your readers.

The report focuses primarily on the ethical issues of experimentation in the justice system, and will therefore be of particular importance to the persons considering experimental change in the operation of courts, probation, parole, and corrections systems. Although experimentation in the justice system is a special case of research involving human

subjects, the report also sheds new and provocative light on the ethics of using human subjects in more familiar contexts, such as biomedical and behavioral research. Similarly, experimentation in the justice system is a particular type of social policy experimentation; that is, experimentation in governmental policy. *Experimentation in the Law* is, I believe, the first comprehensive attempt to address the ethics of research involving human subjects in the unique context where the "researcher" is the government.

Perhaps most remarkable among the report's conclusions is that informed consent is not an essential requirement for subject participation in justice system experimentation (although consent is always preferred). This conclusion stands in striking contrast to accepted ethical guidelines in most fields of research, which absolutely prohibit research with nonconsenting human subjects. This is an example of the different perspective taken by *Experimentation in the Law*, and of the ways in which it sheds new light on the broad subject of experimentation involving human subjects. It will warrant the attention of any person engaged in research involving human subjects, innovation in public policy, or in philosophical, legal, or scientific study of either of these.

We hope that *Experimentation in the Law* provides the foundation for open debate about the use of scientific research methods in improving the operation of the justice system. We encourage you to bring the report to your readers' attention.

William B. Eldridge
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Editor's Note:

Experimentation in the Law: Report of the Federal Judicial Center Advisory Committee On Experimentation in the Law (Federal Judicial Center 1981), is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (request number 027-000-01148-9; available in soft cover only, the price is \$4.25).

Classic Texts Sought

I moved this year to George Mason University where I am a Professor of Government and Politics; however, in the process of moving from California I lost some of my very valuable "classic" public administration texts which I want to replace. However, many are now out of print. I would be happy to hear from any political scientist who would be will-

ing to sell me any of the public administration "classic" texts, particularly Dwight Waldo's *Administration State*, Leonard White's *Introduction to Public Administration* (an early edition), Fritz Mortein Marx's *Elements of Public Administration*, Martin Albrow's *Bureaucracy*, Simon, Smithburg and Thompson's *Public Administration*, David Truman, *The Governmental Process*, Lynton Caldwell, *Administrative Theories of Hamilton and Jefferson* and Carl Friedrich, *Constitutional Government and Democracy* and his *Representative Bureaucracy*. Thanks.

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LOCATION OF FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

Annual Meetings of the American Political Science Association are scheduled to take place on the following dates and in the following cities:

- September 2-5, 1982, in Denver, Colorado
- September 1-4, 1983, in Chicago, Illinois
- August 30-September 2, 1984 in Washington, D.C.
- August 29-September 1, 1985 in New Orleans, Louisiana
- August 28-31, 1986 in Washington, D.C.