

What Rogers fails to mention is that most union leaders are legalistically undesirable, and that the unions are monopolistic and in restraint of trade, and tend to undermine the economy of a country, as in the case of his beloved England. What more is there to say?

MICHAEL RETTINGER
Encino, California

From the tone of the letter it appears that your correspondent is feeling a little of the chill wind that struck the scientists and engineers of Parsons in May 1970. Maybe some indication of the progress of the dispute would be of interest.

Those people threatened with sacking because of their refusal to join D.A.T.A. (now known as T.A.S.S.) were given one month's notice of dismissal by the company. An appeal to the High Court resulted in a ruling that Parsons was perpetrating an unfair industrial practice and that the period of notice for such senior staff was totally inadequate. Under further pressure from TASS the company issued new dismissal notices giving up to three month's notice. During this period the Industrial Relations Act came into force and the people affected asserted their rights under the Act, leaving the company with no alternative but to withdraw the notices. TASS, not recognizing the act, applied sanctions including 'blacking' of those who would not join them and also those who took advantage of the Act to leave a union repugnant to them.

The matter is now in the hands of the Industrial Relations Court and the Commission, the Commission being engaged at the minute in interviewing and distributing questionnaires to the technical staff. Their findings should be available shortly.

None of this concerted action would have been possible without the help of United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers. This union and the newly formed Association of Professional Scientists and Technologists are pledged to defend our interests both professional and ethical, there obviously being a need for help not only in dealing with employers but as protection against our more militant "brothers." One should also bear in mind the necessity of cooperation between these unions and their respective institutes so that a standard for any action can be formulated.

So may I advise the formation of similar bodies in the United States,

which if formed in time could prevent the occurrence of similar events on your side of the Atlantic.

M. SHEEHAN
Grubb Parsons
Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

THE AUTHOR COMMENTS: The continuing events at the British Company, C. A. Parsons, illustrate well the present threat to professional scientists. The days are over when a company owner really owns anything or a manager is free to manage without interference. It seems that C. A. Parsons changed its course of action about four times under pressure from all directions. In this case the scientists are lucky to have government concerned for their well being.

Government and unions can together create an intolerable situation for the professional. A union devoted to one trade does seem logically the group to advise the government on regulations for such a trade. Thus they are able, under the guise of safety regulations, to provide themselves with added job security. Medical doctors too have used this trick. In England, for example, I was taught to give myself injection treatment for hay fever; in the United States I would have to pay a doctor weekly to do this.

Scientists have no such pressure groups. When schedules run behind because of the scarcity of union labor, the professional man works unpaid overtime to keep things going. The manager finds him the only one left who can be managed. The owner has found the scientist the only person left to be "owned." What scientist can get a job without first signing away his right to make a profit on all his original thoughts? A union with strength is sorely needed to protect our rights.

CEDRIC G. ROGERS
Hudson, Mass.

Corrections

Following are corrections I have received to my review of Pimenov's book (April 1972):

Einstein did not find differential geometry "ready for him." He had re-invented half of it before hearing of its existence.

Signals may propagate in Pimenov's semi-Riemannian spaces with arbitrarily high velocity, never "instantaneously."

The index for which "the work pleads" was present in the original Russian.

Pimenov's imprisonment is not the result of any publication but merely of preliminaries to publication.

DAVID FINKELSTEIN
Yeshiva University
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