

## EDITORIAL: MARCHING TO A DIFFERENT DRUM

FREE INQUIRY in Creative Sociology seeks a modest revolution in social science journalism. Its model is Science, published weekly by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Each Science issue contains 25 articles & reports in 80 3-column pages. In 50 annual issues, this worthy journal publishes 1250 informative scientific reports in the exact and social sciences. It uses sketches, photos ranging from galactic nebulae to electron microscopy, maps & tables. Items vary from 1 to 8 pages. Manuscripts must pass peer review, but the massive coverage and minimal waste encourage research. It is intelligible to the college-trained layperson, and the college undergraduate.

BY CONTRAST: Many social science journals appear 4 to 6 times yearly with 5 to 8 long, discursive essays. Restricted space and a rigorously conservative review process combine to exclude 80 percent of submitted papers. Granted that 20 percent merit unceremonious destruction, this defeats 75 percent of the publishable data. It discourages research. It may saturate the field with inconclusive, inoffensive, and circumloquatory items which convince neither lay readers nor students nor scientists. Journals in medicine, physics, chemistry, economics, and law sometimes publish pivotal findings helpful to business, industry, government, and science. This rarely occurs in social science journals.

THE FREE INQUIRY DRUM: We hear the beat of an active society surging with dynamic problems of growth, development, and international adjustment. Religious fundamentalism vies with objective science. Democratic governments try at once to stimulate and to decontrol the national economy. As modern society retrenches in production, distribution, and consumption, sociologists should assess each facet of social life, using dynamic empirical models. They should cease concern with point-in-time non-zero differences between attributes and should explore the principles of adjustment, exchange, interaction, and decay in human groups, institutions, and societies.

FREE INQUIRY, as a semi-annual can make a modest display. It will publish 25 articles per issue, with a current acceptance rate, after revisions, of .65. We will seek the broadest range of research and writing in the major areas of sociology, hoping to induce similar publication velocity in other journals.