

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN SCIENCE

In September, 1949, a group of scientists, deeply concerned at the increasing use of science for destructive ends, met at Haverford, Pa. Believing that science and technology should contribute fully to the benefit of mankind, and never to its harm or destruction, the group organized the Society for Social Responsibility in Science. If you are trained in pure or applied science (including engineering and medicine), and wish to help further the aims and ideals of the SSRS, as described within, we urge that you join this organization of like-minded scientists.

How are dues fixed? Dues for a member having an annual income of more than \$1500 but of not more than \$3000, with \$500 added for each member of his family supported by him are \$5 per year; for members with higher income dues are \$7.50; for members with lower income, dues are \$2. Dues for student members are \$2. Dues for associates are the same as for members. The joint membership dues of a family shall use the family income as criterion for the first member, with \$1 additional dues being paid for each additional member of SSRS within the family.

Does membership involve much work? A society such as this can succeed only in proportion to the interest of its members, and each member is urged to take an active part. However, it is recognized that many members will be unable to do much more than join, receive the newsletter, and perhaps attend a meeting held in conjunction with their own professional society meeting. Such members, through their dues and their personal contacts with friends, can give the encouragement of mere numbers to the organization, and can gain for themselves a sense of solidarity by joining with others of similar purpose.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 1954-55

- Franklin Miller, Jr., President
Physics, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio
- Albert V. Baez, Vice President
Physics, University of Redlands
- Elmer Goetz, Jr. Secretary
Engineering, Crown Can Co.
- Walter Gormly, Treasurer
Engineering consultant, Mt. Vernon, Iowa
- Victor Paschkis, Education Division
RFD, Neshanic Station, N. J.
Engineering, Columbia University
- Norman E. Polster, Occupation Division
Engineering, Leeds and Northrup Co.
- Paul W. Wagner, Membership Chairman
Engineering, Morris Bean Co.
- Truman Kirkpatrick, Newsletter Editor
Chemistry, Sherwin-Williams Co.
- O. Theodor Benfey
Chemistry, Haverford College
- Anton J. Carlson
Physiology, University of Chicago
- Theodore B. Hetzel
Engineering, Haverford College
- Kathleen Lonsdale
Chemistry, University College, London
- M. Jane Oesterling
Biochemistry, Women's Medical College
- Edward G. Ramberg
Physics, RCA Laboratories

Institutions Listed For Purposes Of Identification Only

To join the SSRS: use the attached membership application blank.
For further information: write to Victor Paschkis, Chairman of the Education Division, RFD, Neshanic Station, N. J.

Instructions: sign one of the following statements, and return the completed form to Elmer Goetz, Jr., 1319 Waking St., Philadelphia 24, Pa. Please notify him if application is not acknowledged within two weeks.

I am in agreement with the principles of the Society for Social Responsibility in Science and, desiring to join in working out these principles, ask to be enrolled as a member of that society.

Signature

Date

I hereby apply for membership as an Associate of the Society for Social Responsibility in Science.

Signature

Date

Name.....
Please print or type

Addresses (please give both and indicate to which address communications should be sent)

Business Address.....

Home Address.....

Professional field (s)

Other experience

(CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Realizing our responsibilities to all of humanity, we, a group of scientists and engineers, in order to direct our efforts and activities more effectively toward a constructive world peace and a humane world, and to stand clearly against any war trend, whether in the United States, Russia or any other country, organize the Society for Social Responsibility in Science.

(Preamble to the Constitution)

Purposes: According to the constitution (which will be sent on request), the SSRS is organized "to foster throughout the world a functioning co-operative tradition of personal moral responsibility for the consequences for humanity of professional activity, with emphasis on constructive alternatives to militarism; . . . to embody in this tradition the principle that the individual must abstain from destructive work and devote himself to constructive work, drawing the line between the two according to his own moral judgment; . . . to ascertain through open and free discussion the boundary between constructive and destructive work to serve as a guide for individual and group decisions and action. . . ."

How are these purposes to be implemented? The constitution outlines these methods:

(a) A strong **education program** both to explain the SSRS to potential members, and to provide for open and democratic discussion of constructive action, especially as it concerns scientific workers in solving the broad problems of peace and war. This program is in the hands of the Education Division.

(b) An **employment service** to locate positions for those individuals whose convictions necessitate leaving or refusing destructive work. This program is in the hands of the Occupation Division.

(c) Giving **counsel and assistance** to constructive projects. This activity is also a function of the Occupation Division.

How are the Divisions constituted? Each member may elect to co-operate with one or both of the divisions. The membership elects the division chairmen, who become members of the Council, and committees within the division carry out its work.

Who decides whether a given type of work is acceptable? This is a matter of individual moral judgment. The individual draws his own line. The SSRS brings together those who have drawn or wish to draw some line and are prepared to abstain from work beyond that line even at considerable risk or sacrifice. The Society has no official list of constructive and destructive work.

What about projects of a military nature? Such projects—secret or otherwise—sponsored by the military establishment, or projects of a definitely military nature sponsored by in-

dustrial or civilian organizations are suggested as possible types of destructive work. Some scientists have already drawn sharp lines, while others are undecided, or feel that boundary lines between constructive and destructive work cannot be so sharply drawn. Still others wish to consider the intent or motivation of the project's sponsor as a determining factor, rather than the type of project.

Who is eligible for membership? Men and women of all countries educated in fields of pure or applied science including medicine and engineering, are eligible for membership. Draftsmen or technicians are eligible if they are doing or have done pure or applied scientific work.

What are the classes of membership? 1. **Members**, who pay dues according to income and family status. 2. **Student members**, who pay dues at a lower rate. These include technical trainees, undergraduate college and university students, and full-time graduate students. 3. **Associates**, who while in sympathy with the statement of purposes do not necessarily subscribe to them in full, but for some reason (e. g. interest in civil rights) wish to see the possibility of working for these aims protected. In addition, persons not trained in scientific work may advance the aims of the SSRS by becoming Associates.

Will membership lists be published? No. The list will be in the hands of the secretary and accessible to any member upon request.

How are affairs of the SSRS conducted? Ultimate control of policies is in the hands of the membership at annual meetings. A council, with its Executive Committee, meets frequently to carry on the work of the Society between membership meetings.

Is the SSRS democratically organized? Yes. There are no barriers to membership because of race, creed, or national origin. Membership meetings operate on a basis of open discussion and unanimous decision insofar as possible, matters being brought to a vote only when all reasonable steps to secure unanimity have been exhausted. Membership rights are protected by a Board of Appeals.

Can public statements purporting to represent the society as such be issued by the Council? Only after prior approval by the membership.

Will not this society duplicate the efforts of other organizations? The Federation of American Scientists, the American Association of Scientific Workers, and other groups are doing good work in bringing scientists to realize the social implications of their work. The SSRS, however, differs from all of these in that emphasis is placed upon individual moral judgment and upon abstention from destructive work.

Is the SSRS international in scope? Members live in 17 countries and the Newsletter is circulated in 28 countries. Among the members of the SSRS are four recipients of the Nobel Prize (Albert Einstein, Wolfgang Pauli, Hideki Yukawa, and Max Born. Other foreign members include Kathleen Lonsdale, C. A. Coulson, and Priyada ranjan Ray.

(OVER)

Choice of Division (check one or both if you wish to make this decision now).

I wish to co-operate with the work of the Education Division Occupation Division

Annual dues for my membership are \$..... Consult descriptive leaflet for method of determining dues.

The treasurer will bill you pro-rata for dues until next Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year.

Please send no money with this application.

For the guidance of the Education Division, please state how you first heard of the organization:

Please list professional scientific societies to which you belong:

Please list other societies to which you belong whose work is related to that of the SSRS:

→ note bulletin