

SOCIETY

*Publishing and
Perishing*

"Confronting the Journal Publication Crisis: A Proposal for a Council of Social Science Editors" by James L. McCartney, in *The American Sociologist* (Aug. 1976), American Sociological Association, 1722 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

If rising production costs and dwindling income do not kill off the sociology journal within 10 years, the failure to provide current information to scholarly readers may do so, writes *Sociological Quarterly* editor McCartney.

Sociology-journal publishing is grossly inefficient, even when compared with other academic publications. Most sociology journals are small (under 2,000 pages a year), and their average manuscript rejection rate is high (82 per cent for 39 journals surveyed). An academic sociologist, compelled by a tightening job market to "publish or perish," may spend a year submitting his manuscript to various journals before it is finally accepted, then wait another year before publication. Yet there are 177 unrelated journals of sociology today, each with its own style and requirements. As a result, the time and money spent by a scholar preparing a manuscript for submission increases with each rejection. Some do not appear in print until four years after they were first presented.

McCartney fears that it may never be possible to make the printed sociology journal an economical and efficient mode of communication. He suggests a council of editors to plan for a shift to the "electronic journal" of the future, when sociologists communicate by computer, perhaps the only answer to the current information bottleneck.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

*Trouble for
Technology*

"Has the U.S. Lost Its Initiative in Technological Innovation?" by Jerome B. Wiesner, in *Technology Review* (July-Aug. 1976), Room E19-430, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. 02139.

The answer to the question posed by the title of this article by MIT president Wiesner is "no, not yet," but the trends are unfavorable. If the United States appears to have lost the ability to innovate rapidly enough to cope with the growing complexity and scale of current problems such as chronic unemployment and rural to urban population shifts, it is not for lack of good technical ideas.

The slowdown in the pace and quality of innovation and productivity