LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Oppressive Benefits

DEAR SIR:

As a further comment on the “social security tax” (certainly not a “benefit,” although it cannot be denoted by the taxable income), it may be of interest that only $1.00 is paid back out of $5.00 collected. This means a handsome profit of 400% per year. Is a private enterprise allowed to accrue such profits?

In addition to the disproportionate distribution of the remaining dollar between the pensioners many companies were obliged to curtail their own pension plans in order to provide additional dollars to the social security program. These dollars were diverted formerly to the benefit of the employees.

Possibly some of the dollars we were obliged to pay are spent on the semi-socialistic and semicommunistic propaganda of the Social Security Agency which is broadcast on the radio to the disgust of many listeners who are forced to pay for it.

V. A. Kakichevsky

Syracuse, N. Y.

German Mistake o’ Haccen

DEAR SIR:

Re “Der Franklin und sein Keit” (C&EN, April 28, page 1828), der Mann der die History von Franklin und sein Keit geschrieben hat ist ein Tschinius, der sure seine Zwiebeln kennt. Es ware ja e’ Skandal und e’ Schem wenn Sie dieses Werk nicht in C&EN geprägten hätten. Danke schön!

Bala-Cynwyd, Pa.

DEAR SIR:

Perhaps 12 to 20 other people will tell you too that the great scientific biographer, Sol Neman, whom you quote in C&EN for April 28, published the bulk of his magnificent work in the Journal of Electrochemical Society, in volumes 96 to 97. It seems that his papers were rather heavily footnoted and not corrected for the editor. To this Herr Sol Neman took violent exception, and in a letter to the editor, vol. 97, 159C, he writes as follows:

Ich will nicht biefen, aber meine Uber­spannung hat geschneppt; wer ist denn eigentlich dieser „Ed.,“ der den Nerf hat, meine gute Arbeit mit seinen Futtnoots und Weiskrecks aufzulassen? "Mal y pense" mein Ed! Ich glaube dieser Diefkolli ist selbst zu gros fuer seine Britsches; besser, er sticket zu seinem Brumh, oder ich komm’ und sticke ihn mit seinem eigenen Bull­pean bis er Oekel stricht.

Doch wieder zurueck zu diesem “Ed.” Bis der gefeit ist, schreihe ich weber­haupt nicht mehr—zueheln! Osi

Evidently the editor was not fired, for Sol Neman kept his word and has not published since.

ARTHUR L. SMITH

Newark, N. Y.

Pauling’s Passport Denial

DEAR SIR:

The denial of a passport to Linus Pauling is a shocking addition to the list of passport and visa difficulties experienced by scientists in the past few years. This case is of particular concern to the chemical profession because it involves one of our most distinguished chemists. Dr. Pauling’s long line of awards and honors, including his election to the presidency of the ACS, are witness not only to the scientific esteem in which he is held, but also to the confidence of his scientific colleagues in his personal integrity and to their appreciation for the service he has performed for his country.

The reason advanced by the Passport Division, that issuance of this passport would not be in the best interests of the country, is indeed self-contradictory. Our real interests can only be advanced, not thwarted by exchange of scientists of different countries. In addition to the benefits flowing from such an exchange, we can justly advance the selfish claim that appearances abroad of such distinguished men as Prof. Pauling are among the most effective methods of showing America at her best.

JEROME L. ROSENBERG

Chicago, Ill.