

Scientists Confused After Conducting Tests on Believing

By DELOS SMITH
 UPI Science Editor

New York—(UPI)—The attitude of not believing anything until it has been proved scientifically has brought confusion to many minds, and the minds of Drs. Elaine Walstar and Leon Festinger are merely the latest. They saw no real reason to disbelieve it is human nature for people to be much more impressed by what they overhear when they are eavesdropping than when they

speakers know they are present and listening. The fact is the scientists were inclined to believe it.

It sounds reasonable. Also in its favor is just about everyone believes it. In science "intuitive knowledge" has some value. But the fact remained it had never been tested scientifically, and Drs. Walstar and Festinger could not accept it until it had been.

They put it to the test, with 100 young people. Half were put into the situation of eavesdropping on two strangers engaged in earnest conversation. The other 50 overheard the same conversation but they knew the strangers, and

knew they were hearing every word of it.

Knew in Advance

The conversation was rigged, of course, and designed to be persuasive. It upheld the thesis that any role cigarette smoking may have in causing lung cancer has not been proved. Through an innocuous medical questionnaire the scientists had found out far in advance just how their subjects viewed this question.

The eavesdroppers were more persuaded by this talk but to the surprise of the scientists the difference was barely significant statistically. They figured the significance would be greater if they divided their subjects

into smokers and non-smokers.

"It seemed possible to us that since smokers might be very desirous of believing the content of the persuasive

WINS AWARD

Corvallis—(UPI)—Dr. James d'Argaville Clark, a professor at Oregon State University, has been named winner of the Gold Medal award from the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry.

Pendleton—(UPI)—Funeral services were to be held here today for Herbert S. Clarke, a prominent Pendleton businessman who died Sunday. He was 64.

communication, they might have changed a great deal, and equally in both experimental situations," they said in reporting to the American Psychological Association.

Perplexing Finding

"The analysis of the data, however, revealed a very perplexing finding. Not only was this suggestion not true, but the opposite was true."

Something had to be wrong with their testing, they decided, and they worked out then on a bunch of women. Half were college girls living in dormitories. The other half were young wives. The former overheard a conversation in support of the idea that college girls should be allowed

to live "of campus" if they wished. The wives overheard one which argued husbands should spend more time at home.

The results were the same. They were confused, the scientists confessed, and what they've got to do now is to study the whole "business" closely in order to get at scientific truths. One question they want to answer is "Why, when the involved subjects hear a communication which advocates a position they would like to accept, they still tend to impute ulterior motives to the speaker?"

Drs. Walstar and Festinger work at Stanford university, Palo Alto, Calif.

Khrushchev Calls For Joint Effort

Moscow—(UPI)—Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, in an exchange of New Year's messages with President Kennedy, Wednesday called for a joint Soviet-American effort to improve mutual relations and the international situation.

Khrushchev said in his message, published in full tonight by the government newspaper Izvestia: "Let the new year become a turning point in improving relations between our two nations, the year of our joint effort in bettering the international situation, in the interests of entire mankind."

Bend Officials Select New Mayor

Bend—(UPI)—E. L. Neilsen was elected mayor of Bend for 1963 by city commissioners Wednesday night in a unanimous vote.

Neilsen, who also was mayor in 1961, succeeds Jack Dempsey, who remains on the board of commissioners.

Donald Denning was named mayor pro-tem. He will serve as mayor when Neilsen is out of the city. Denning was elected by a 4-3 vote over Paul Reynolds. Denning, Reynolds and Leon Devereaux were sworn in as new commissioners and joined Neilsen, Dempsey, R. A. Carlson and Dr. C. A. Rice.

WASHINGTONS CALLING

St. Louis—(UPI)—On one street in Affton near here, the Steve Winkelmann family moved to Washington, Ill., the Tony Muellers moved to Washington, Mo., and the John Godbolds moved to Washington, D. C.



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Tastewell
SALT 26-oz. Pkg. **6¢**

Cut Rite
SANDWICH BAGS 75 Count...Reg. 25c **16¢**

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KARO SYRUP 24-oz. Bottle **19¢**

Regular 69c
NEW BASCO 24-oz. Jar **49¢**

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MOM'S DINNER 16-oz. Can **39¢**

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