

grams throughout the United States. The decision is unrelated to the conduct of SSTP itself—a program that is widely approved and for which continuation is desired by the NSF staff. The White House and the top echelon of presidential appointees at NSF have rationalized a claim that SSTP leads to science manpower recruitment in a time of excess talent and unemployment in the field.

We have but to remember shortages of scientists and engineers in the 1930s and in the 1950s. A similar crisis might beset us in the 1980s. The present temporary manpower excess is directly related to the abrupt government cutback on space and defense development and production. Continuation of the program now does not seem likely to contribute to the present oversupply of professional manpower. It will, however, help assure the country of the existence of a talented and capable group 10 years from now. A technologic society requires that the best minds be drawn into these endeavors.

The House Committee on Science and Astronautics and the Senate Committee on Education and Labor are the committees that consider the NSF appropriation. These committees should be urged to mandate the continuance of SSTP. Congress, in all likelihood, will pass upon the appropriation bill for the National Science Foundation in June. Sympathetic congressmen have advised that a few letters to each congressman and senator will win majority support for SSTP and a mandate for its continuance.

Certainly, individuals requesting that SSTP continue are making a selfless request. They are not the individuals who will benefit directly from it in future years. This is an educational opportunity requested for others that can only serve to improve the quality of science and the understanding of the interrelationship of science technology and the community. Here is that rare case where government support is urged to help others.

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### Beer-Can Project

Grandfather has spoken of yesterdays when a naturalist could walk six hours in the country without seeing a beer can and gaze into a stream unpolluted by trash. Shall such a setting reoccur?

If the involvement of your classes in relevant projects against pollution seems futile, perhaps an interclass aluminum-can contest would achieve some degree of success.

The Adolph Coors Co., Golden, Colo., and Lapeka, Inc., Topeka, Kan., pay 10¢ a pound for the cans. (It is rumored that the price shall increase to one cent per can in the near future.) A pound of Coors cans consists of approximately 20 cans. A few of the Coors warehouses will also accept aluminum ice cube trays and aluminum wrap. Beware of any aluminum “so labeled” can that has seams. Actual

aluminum cans do not have seams and are easily crushed with one hand. Most alloy cans are labeled “aluminum” on the lid to entice the consumer into thinking the whole can is homogenous; however, only the lid is aluminum. Coors will not purchase alloy cans.

A method that can be employed in the project is competition between one or more science classes. Voluntary class secretaries can post the daily results for each class. Perhaps the school paper would supply competitive publicity.

Project funds can be applied to funding for science equipment and supplies, support a school or charitable organization, or perhaps (best yet) contributions to the Wildlife Federation, Audubon Society, Sierra Club, etc.

In eight weeks, 119 general-biology students collected 411 pounds of aluminum cans. How well will your classes fare?

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### Mealworms Galore

Teachers always need more mealworms. The demand at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, has been met by Simon Messer, our chief technician. Remembering from his childhood days in Germany that mealworms seemed more plentiful in wooden containers than in other kinds, Messer designed rearing “drawers” made of plywood. Each drawer measures 15 by 85 by 75 cm and is fitted with a sliding lid. The lid has two 7.5-cm round holes covered with screen wire, for ventilation. The drawer



Mealworm drawers in use, showing storage arrangement.