

Problem of '70s'

Value Research Called Critical

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Hearst Newspapers

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The world needs today as never before a modern scientific solution of the problem of values, of what ought to be done and what ought not to be done by human beings, according to a famous California scientist.

Dr. Roger Sperry, professor of psychobiology at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, challenged the scientific community to take up research in values at a session of the American Assoc. for the Advancement of Science in Washington. He said:

"The problem of values is in large part a problem for science, and there is no problem today in the whole world of science that carries more critical importance.

"Efforts to cope with the mounting conditions around the world are being thwarted, not by technological inadequacies or scientific limitations, so much as by problems of value priorities. It is the value questions—social, cultural, ideological, economic, religious, political—that constitute the major hurdle. The survival of man depends on finding and adopting very soon a new or revised set of value guidelines to live by.

"If the primary problems of 1970s do lie in the area of human values, and if science is inherently unable to deal with

these value problems then we as scientists are indeed confronted with a most serious shortcoming in our chosen discipline and all it stands for.

"The future of science will most certainly be a very different one depending on whether science is, or is not, recognized to have competence in the realm of values."

As long as non-scientists, whether they call themselves experts in "humanities" or what not, enjoy and claim a monopoly of dealing with value problems, and the professional scientists restrict themselves to finding "facts," troubles will go on and increase.

Prof. Sperry's studies of the relationship between the organization of the human and monkey brains and the states of consciousness have led to this scientist's "emergent theory of mind," with many "implications for the social role of science, the value making role of science."

When the machinery of the brain, a material structure, reaches a certain level of organization it gives rise to consciousness. Surgical operation of "brain splitting," separating the right and the left brain lobes, alters the person's conscious activities. So the traditional "dichotomy," complete separation of the brain matter and the mind, no longer holds.

If the brain determines one's thoughts, the thoughts in their turn influence the material processes of the brain, all of which opens the way for a science of values, in the Sperry theory.