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The Anti-Science Syndrome

Arthur Koestler

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Teaching Committee. Together with Dr. Yager's leadership and the work of the officers of the Association, the Association and its entire membership was transformed into the Iowa Science Teachers Section of the Iowa Academy of Science.

In addition to serving the Iowa Academy of Science as its president in 1973-74, he has been heavily involved with the promotion of the Iowa Junior Academy of Science through funding from the National Science Foundation for a variety of student program activities. These activities have included research opportunities and field studies in various locations in the United States for secondary school students. Dr. Yager was also responsible for organizing the first Articulation Conference for Iowa two and four year college science teachers in 1966.

As evidence of Dr. Yager's influence in science education at the national level he has served the following national organizations as president: School Science and Mathematics, 1969-70; National Association of Biology Teachers, 1970-71; Association for the Education of Teachers in Science, 1973-74; and the National Association for Research in Science Teaching, 1974-75. He has also served on numerous boards associated with science education at the national level and has published nearly fifty papers in plant physiology and science education.

Dr. Yager, a native of Carroll, Iowa, received his baccalaureate degree from the University of Northern Iowa and his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Iowa. Dr. Yager and his wife, Phyllis, have two children, Stuart and Laura. Dr. Yager's interest in plant physiology continues to be exemplified in his enthusiasm for gardening.

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The Anti-Science Syndrome

“... the average person will be reluctant to admit that a work of art is beyond his level of comprehension; but he will, in the same breath and with certain pride, confess his complete ignorance of the principles which make his radio work; the forces which make the stars go round; the factors which determine the heredity of his children; and the location of his own viscera and glands.

One of the consequences of this attitude is that he utilizes the products of science and technology in a purely possessive, exploitive manner without comprehension or feeling. . . By being entirely dependent on science, yet closing his mind to it, he leads the life of an urban barbarian.”

Act of Creation
Arthur Koestler