

HRH PRINCE PHILIP:

Religion of science supercedes God

Scientists must make themselves responsible for the environmental effects of their discoveries, HRH Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh, said in Mississauga last Wednesday.

Thousands of Mississaugans thronged to Sheridan Park Research Centre to catch a glimpse of Queen Elizabeth's husband as he toured the snow covered buildings.

The Prince warned that there could be a "growing mass of schizophrenia

and the erosion of the natural world" if the "new religion of science" continued to be at variance with the religion of God.

He described the over 100 scientists at the research centre as "one of the most powerful neo-religious sects in the world," citing only economists, as being stronger.

He said economists "seem to be building up the same sort of dogma and shibboleths which be-

came the milestones of old religions."

FORMULA
He said the explosion of science had encouraged the view that "everything in this world and universe can be reduced to a rational arrangement of facts or figures," that even human behavior can be juggled and organized into some sort of satisfactory norm.

Prince Phillip said he wanted to make it clear that he was in favour of

science discovering as many facts as possible, although he had reservations concerning the relationship of science and human existence.

He said the Sheridan Park programs were motivated by industrial and commercial considerations, which was "wholly reasonable."

"The difficulty with all this is that there appears to be no motivation for scientific research related to the central concern of this world, which is the quality of existence, the interpretation of all living things."

CHEMICALS

He said science produced "a whole armoury" of chemicals for different purposes in agriculture and forestry, but it was the layman who first sounded the warning about their indiscriminate use.

It was the layman, too, he said who first drew attention to the dangers of water and air pollution.

He said the problem was to ensure that tendencies were disclosed before crises built up.

"The concern is with the truth, and it turns out it is that truth which can be conveniently ascertained or which promises some practical reward that gets all the attention," he said.

"Who feels even remotely responsible for the quality of our existence except as a means of gaining votes?" he asked.

He said in many ways science had taken over from religion in the sense that science claims to provide the factual answers to all the questions which mankind had been asking since it learned to speak.

PEOPLE

He added: "but people are people, with all the ancient and complex behaviour patterns, responses and the combinations and recom-

binations of intellect and emotion."

Prince Phillip suggested that one answer could be for the old religions to set up scientific research organizations. He said, it could be better still to establish a working alliance between the new religions of science and economics and the old religions of God.

He said the high priests of science had an immensely more important and far-reaching responsibility than simply discovering facts and exploiting them in the short-term interest.



A child's hand reaches out to touch the smiling Prince Philip as he leaves Sheridan Park research community's conference centre in Mississauga last week. Thousands of people, mainly youngsters, turned out in freezing temperatures to catch a glimpse of the royal visitor. "I came here because I was invited," he told over 100 Sheridan scientists and then proceeded to warn them to broaden their responsibilities beyond the scope of mere facts and figures.

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