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NEWS

SORTING OUT SCIENCE AND PSEUDOSCIENCE

... "Scientists and philosophers tend to treat superstition, pseudoscience, and even antiscience as harmless rubbish, or even as proper for mass consumption; they are far too busy with their own research to bother about such nonsense. This attitude is most unfortunate for the following reasons. First, superstition, pseudoscience, and antiscience are not rubbish that can be recycled into something useful; they are intellectual viruses that can attack anybody, layman or scientist, to the point of sickening an entire culture and turning it against scientific research. Second, the emergence and diffusion of superstition, pseudoscience, and antiscience are important psycho-

social phenomena worth being investigated scientifically and perhaps even used as indicators of the state of health of a culture. Third, pseudoscience and antiscience are good test cases for any philosophy of science. Indeed, the worth of such philosophy can be gauged by its sensitivity to the differences between science and non-science, high-grade and low-grade science, and living and dead science."

[Mario Bunge (McGill U., Montreal) in *Skeptical Inquirer* 9(1): 36-46, Fall 84. Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 3, January 21, 1985, p. 12. (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

STORAGE POWER PLANTS

A hydropower storage plant now in the making near Leningrad will consume at night energy from thermal and nuclear power plants in the north-western USSR. During the peak hours, it will return to the power grid. The plant, which will be located on a high hill by the Shapsha River, will have eight power units of 220,000 kilowatts each. At night its recuperative generators will pump water back into a reservoir on the hilltop to be used for electricity generation during the peak hours.

The new storage plant will help get more electricity from the operating thermal and nuclear power stations, whose power units are run at a slower pace at night when electricity is not consumed, burning more fuel per kilowatt-hour produced. The new storage plant will generate more than 1,500 million kilowatt-hours annually. (*Soviet Features*, Vol. XXIV, No. 34, Information Department of the USSR Embassy in India, No. 25, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110 001)
