Chapter 7: Golden Era Dawns

The rapid expansion of the Society that began in the postwar years continued through the fifties and beyond. The golden era was underway.

Between 1949 and 1959, membership expanded from 2,673 to 6,436; total income rose from $22,556 to $145,406; Annual Meeting registrations increased from about 500 to more than 1,400, and the number of papers presented went from less than 100 to about 250.

Another journal was added to the publication program and two more were in the wings. Other types of publications appeared. Submissions to ASR jumped from about 200 to 1,000 per year, and non-member subscriptions rose from 1,352 to 2,339.

The Society became an Association; the Constitution was revised; ethics and graduate training were explored; awards were initiated; “modern” sections were established; Fellows were created, and traditional issues were pursued.

By 1960, “no less than 650 members” were serving on various committees and editorial boards.

Everything, however, was not rosy. The certification of social scientists posed a threat to the autonomy of the profession. Social science and academic freedom were under attack. Long-standing relations with other scientific and scholarly organizations were being tested. And additional services and increased costs maintained financial stress.

Nevertheless, in 1960, Matilda White Riley, Executive Officer, could state that “sociology as one of the social sciences has gained in maturity during the past decade” while it was being “represented with increasing dignity and effectiveness by an Association with which the overwhelming majority of sociologists and sociologists-in-training wish to be identified.”

Publications

The expansion of the publication program beyond the ASR and the Annual Meeting Program began in 1950 with the production of a Directory of Members. In that same year, the Society took another step that has had long-term significance for its publication program. It shifted the ASR to the Boyd Printing Company in Albany, New York, effective with the 1951 volume.

An Index to the first 15 volumes of the ASR was published in 1951; the same year in which a series, Bulletins of the American Sociological Society, was begun to deal with “the practical affairs of the profession in the hope that these may develop ultimately into a second official periodical.”

Two Bulletins were issued in 1951: “Participation of Sociologists in Government Programs” under the editorial guidance of Carl C. Taylor, Conrad Taeuber, John W. Riley, Jr., assisted by Harry Alpert, and “The Roles of the Sociologist: An Analysis of the Membership of the Society with Special Reference to Non-Teaching Occupations,” by Wellman J. Warner. The last Bulletin, “Financial Assistance Available to Graduate Students in Sociology,” under the editorial guidance of Jessie Bernard, assisted by Mariam Alpert of the Executive Office, appeared in 1952. The Bulletins were abandoned because of rising publication costs. Proposals for a monograph series were dropped for the same reason.

The desire to expand the publication program, however, could not be denied. In 1953, the Executive Committee, on the recommendation of the Executive Office, voted “to authorize the President to undertake preliminary negotiations with the Russell Sage Foundation for a joint project to publish a series of bulletins of professional interest.” The President, in turn, “instructed the Executive Office to pursue the matter...” In August of that year, the Society authorized “the appropriate office...to conclude an agreement with the Russell Sage Foundation which would make feasible the preparation and publication of a series of bulletins devoted to critical review of recent publications in such applied fields as penology, social psychiatry, health services, counseling, community organization, etc.”

The first Russell Sage Bulletin appeared in January 1956: Sociology and the Field of Corrections by Lloyd Ohlin; the second in April 1956: Sociology and the Field of Mental Health by John Clausen; the third in April 1959: Military Sociology by Morris Janowitz, and the fourth in May 1959: Sociology and Education by Orville Brim.

The Bulletins won quick acceptance within the profession. By May 1959 the sales figures were: Corrections by Ohlin—3,584; Mental Health by Clausen—3,586; Military by Janowitz—919, and Education by Brim—1,989. The Bulletin series continued into the sixties.

The Society acquired its second journal on its 50th anniversary. In December 1954, J. L. Moreno offered Sociometry to the Society as a gift “without stipulations or conditions.” In 1955, the Society accepted the journal with “deep gratitude” and began publishing it in 1956 under the editorship of Leonard S. Cottrell, Jr.

In 1958, the Liaison Committee for Sociology and Education
suggested that the Society negotiate for the *Journal of Educational Sociology*. The Executive Officer was authorized to enter into exploratory negotiations with the sponsors of the journal and to express the Society’s “interest in pursuing a plan for a publication in this field.”

In that same year, the Society published the symposium volume, *Sociology Today: Problems and Prospects*, edited by Robert K. Merton, Leonard Broom and Leonard Cottrell, that was based on papers presented at the 1957 Annual Meeting. The Society also voted that year to take over the *Public Opinion Quarterly* “under appropriate conditions”, but Princeton University decided to retain ownership.

By the end of the decade, the Society was also publishing *Program Abstracts* and a listing of *Current Research Projects*. In addition, the *Employment Bulletin* was being issued as a supplement to the *ASR*.

All through the fifties the Society tried to implement a recommendation of the 1950 Reorganization Committee which called for “a new periodical to deal with the practice of sociology as a profession.” The *Bulletins* of the Society and the section on “The Profession” started in *ASR* in 1958 were interim solutions.

**Name Change**

The American Sociological Society became the American Sociological Association in 1959 when “the members approved the revisions in the Society’s Constitution and By-Laws necessary to a change in the name...”

The effort to change the name of the Society began in 1958 when Council recommended that “the necessary constitutional and legal steps be taken for a possible change in the name of the Society...” The first meeting under the new name was held in 1959.

**Constitutional Revision**

The revised Constitution, effective March 1951, was the result of the reorganization movement that began in 1947 with the D.C. chapter resolution and culminated with the report of the 1950 Reorganization Committee.

The new Constitution and By-Laws incorporated the following major recommendations made by the Reorganization Committee: (1) placed the ultimate governing power of the Society in active members to be exercised through mail ballot or presence at membership meetings; (2) eliminated the power of the Business Meeting to amend the Constitution and to have its actions automatically implemented by Council; (3) established a 29-member Council composed of officers, 12 members-at-large, and representatives of regional and affiliated groups as the governing body; (4) created an Executive Committee charged with ongoing responsibility for implementing Council policies; (5) established the position of President-Elect; (6) reduced the term of Past-Presidents to three years; (7) legitimated the position of Executive Officer; (8) restricted student membership to five years; (9) established standing committees on publications and training and professional standards, and (10) required a referendum to amend the Constitution.

In 1956, a Constitutional amendment reduced the number of vice presidents from two to one.

**Ethics**

The question of ethics was initially raised by the Committee on the Problems of the Individual Researcher composed of Alfred McElroy, Lee, chair; Theodore F. Abel, Stanley H. Chapman, Joseph K. Folsom and Simon Marson.

In 1951, it “urged an examination of the standards of ethics and practice that do and should govern the subsidization of sociological research both in and out of colleges and universities because of the growth of opportunities in commercial and other special-interest research for sociologists which is welcomed.”

In 1953, the Committee on Standards and Ethics in Research Practice chaired by Lee and composed of Ray H. Abrams, Bernard Barber, Gordon W. Blackwell, Herbert Blumer, Carroll D. Clark, Mabel A. Elliott, Glaister A. Elmer, Nelson N. Foote, Robert N. Fort, S. Michael Miller and Hans Zeisel reported “the stage is being reached at which tentative formulations of official attitudes towards standards and ethics in research can be undertaken. These should not be drafted as efforts at ‘legislating morals’ but rather as efforts to crystallize and give enlightened direction to the evolving consensus.” Further evolution of the consensus would have to occur, however, before action would take place.

**Training and Standards**

Calvin F. Schmid, chair, Committee on Training and Professional Standards, reported in 1953: ‘The work of the Committee during the past two years, including its discussions, correspondence, and review of studies, definitely points to a need for a careful and systematic survey of various problems relating to training and professional standards of sociologists.”

Besides Schmid, the Committee was composed of Alpert, Joseph P. Fitzpatrick, John Fossett, Ruby Jo Kennedy, Elio D. Monachesi, Meyer Ninkoff and E. William Noland.

The study, however, was not immediately forthcoming; for as Elbridge Sibley, Committee chair, said in 1957: “An appropriate role for the Society, with respect to training and professional standards is not easy to define at the present state of development of the discipline. The dangers of premature formalization must be weighed against the present costs of anarchy. At one extreme stand some who advocate accreditation of departments or even licensure of practicing sociologists; the opposite position is epitomized in the ancient definition of sociology as whatever sociologists teach. Neither of these extremes is rep-
resented within the present Committee." The Committee, however, recommended that "a session on training should be a regular feature of Annual Meetings of the Society."

In 1958, the Committee recommended that a study of graduate training in sociology be undertaken by the Society, but pointed out that "if a study sponsored by the Society is to have significant influence on graduate education in sociology, its report should contain recommendations for improvement over prevailing practices."

Besides Sibley, the Committee was composed of Leonard Cotrell, Sanford M. Dornbusch, Walter Firey, Kurt B. Mayer, and Albert J. Reiss, Jr.

Council authorized the appropriate officers to seek funding for such a study that same year and in 1959 it instructed the President "to write to the Social Science Research Council pointing out that Elbridge Sibley is eminently qualified to conduct a much-needed study of graduate training in sociology and urging that he be relieved of other duties to undertake such a study."

In 1963, The Education of Sociologists in the United States by Elbridge Sibley was published by the Russell Sage Foundation which funded the study.

Awards

The Edward L. Bernays Foundation Radio-Television Award was the first award presented at an Annual Meeting. In 1952, it was given to Gladys and Kurt Lang for their paper, "The Unique Perspective of Television and Its Effects."

In 1952, the Society accepted a $5,000 donation to establish the Robert Maclver Award. In 1954, these funds were supplemented when Theodore Abel, Monroe Berger and Charles H. Page gave the Society their royalties from the Maclver symposium volume, Freedom and Control in Modern Society.

The first Maclver Award, however, was not made until 1956 because of the difficulties involved in establishing requirements for the award. E. Franklin Frazier received the initial honor for The Black Bourgeoisie.

An award policy was developed for the Society in 1954 by a Committee on Awards composed of August B. Hollingshead, William H. Sewell, Paul Wallin, Wellman J. Warner, Alpert, Blumer and Sibley, chair.

The Committee stated the Society should offer awards "as long as the terms were consistent with the purposes of the Society set forth in the Constitution." It further stated that "primary consideration should be given to (1) honorific aspects of awards; (2) the influence of awards to individuals upon the morale and aspirations of sociologists at large, and (3) the role of awards in bringing the achievements of sociologists to the favorable attention of the academic world and the general public."

Modern Sections

A mechanism for creating Sections as they exist today was established in 1958 upon the recommendation of the Committee on Program and Organization as a means for accommodating "special interest" groups in the Society. Sections had existed since 1921, but their activities were primarily limited to organizing a session for the Annual Meeting.

Under the new relationship, the Society accorded "official recognition to Sections composed of members with common interests in substantive fields within sociology" and extended "cooperation in matters of program planning, mailings to members, and in other matters as decided from time to time by the Council." Minimum membership was set at 200; each paying a fee of one dollar to the Society.

Fellows

On the recommendation of the Committee on Program and Organization the Society also established a new membership category—Fellows—effective January 1, 1959.

Under this new provision, only Fellows were eligible for (1) elected office, (2) membership on Council, and (3) chairmanship of standing committees. Members in the Active category automatically became Fellows after five years if their status rested upon "either (a) the present By-Law requirement of a PhD or equivalent professional training in Sociology, or substantial professional achievement in Sociology; or (b) the present alternative By-Law requirement of a PhD or its equivalent or substantial professional achievement in closely related field, with the additional proposed requirement of major commitment to the field of Sociology."

Other members who have held Active status for five years could request the Classification Committee to review their credentials for Fellowship status. A certificate was issued to Fellows.

Traditional Concerns

A number of traditional concerns continued to be discussed in the fifties including (1) the Annual Meeting, (2) relations with the federal government, (3) the research mission of the Society, (4) relations with regional and affiliated societies, (5) public image of the profession, (6) teaching, and (7) international relations.

The 1953 Annual Meeting, organized by President Samuel A. Stouffer, is noteworthy for addressing several issues. It was the first meeting to be largely composed of contributed rather than solicited papers and most papers were limited to 1,200 words. In addition, it was the first meeting on the West Coast and the first meeting on a university campus—UC-Berkeley.

A Subcommittee on Sociology in the Federal Government, responding to a concern about "the type of representation the Society ought to have in Washington on a long-run basis" said in 1959:
"While many distinguished members of the Society now serve as consultants to various agencies in Washington and occasionally testify as expert witnesses before Congressional committees, our Society has not endeavored systematically to anticipate needs or to develop latent potentials. We believe that the status of the profession and the public welfare will be enhanced by a carefully planned effort to make sociological knowledge and talent more readily available through the official auspices of the Society."

A variety of committees tried to develop the research mission of the Society by (1) looking at the problems of individual researchers; (2) creating a reporting procedure which would "help the individual sociologist become familiar with work in progress"; (3) encouraging research in smaller colleges and universities; and (4) developing an instrument for evaluating research publications.

Relations with affiliated and regional societies became problematic in the fifties. The difficulties involved the planning of the Annual Meeting, the services the Executive Office was to provide the societies, and the method of electing representatives of the societies to Council.

The public image issue was addressed by Peter P. Lejins, representative to the American Prison Association, who lamented the lack of participation of sociologists-criminologists in the Prison Association, in the following manner:

"One often hears sociologists deplore the fact that their discipline has not been as successful in establishing for itself a definite and recognized place within our contemporary society as some other social science disciplines have been. We often talk about better organization, promotion, better public relations, and yet there is an unquestionable opportunity for the sociologist to contribute, to gain recognition and to establish himself in a distinctly professional capacity; but he seems to lack interest and initiative, although this is the area to which he has so far had the major claim. For how much longer? Here is an issue which our Society might find it appropriate to explore."

A variety of committees continued to raise questions about the development of adequate materials for secondary school sociology, the training of secondary school teachers, and the method of teaching and the content of courses in colleges. In 1959, Council instructed the President to appoint an ad hoc committee to draw up plans for a program of visiting scientists from the field of sociology to assist colleges and universities where "only a minimum of sociology is taught or where there is no sociologist on the faculty."

Finally, the Society severed its relationship with the International Federation of Sociological Societies and Institutes in 1952. In 1957, it received its first grant from the Asia Foundation to facilitate the development of relations between American and Asian sociologists, and a grant from the Carnegie Corporation to cover travel expenses of Society delegates to international meetings.

Certification

The effort mounted by the Society to protect the profession from the exclusionary provisions of state laws being promoted by psychologists to license or certify psychologists and social psychologists was probably the most intense organizational effort ever made by the Society.

The problem emerged in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Implications of Legislation that Licenses or Certifies Psychologists composed of Theodore Newcomb, Sibley, and Guy Swanson, chair, in 1956:

"The American Psychological Association and its state affiliates have faced the problem of professional self-regulation by establishing a code of ethics and by working for the enactment of state legislation to insure that the public receives a high quality of professional service. The American Psychological Association, in the letter and the spirit of its policy recommendations for such state legislation, has sought to protect the legitimate interests of other professions."

"Nevertheless, some unintended consequences resulted that might limit sociologists trained in social psychology from performing their normal activities in teaching, research or consultation without violating the state code."

Many of the state laws being promoted by state psychological associations restricted the use of the label, "social psychologist," to persons trained in psychology and certified by the APA.

In 1957, Amos H. Hawley, chair, Committee on the Implications of Certification Legislation, urged officers of all state and regional sociological societies "to enter into consultation with state psychological associations when the latter begin to discuss drafting legislation to certify or license psychologists" and recommended that Council "provide legal, financial, and advisory assistance when necessary." At one point, "monitors" were appointed in 47 states.

Hawley and other Committee members—Edgar Borgatta, Philip Hauser, Alex Inkeles, Saul Mendlovitz, Gideon Sjoberg, Ralph Turner, and Swanson—also took their argument to the psychological community through an article published in The American Psychologist:

"...as sociologists we observe the movement toward certification by the state with growing concern. Our primary concern has to do with the impingement of state certification on social psychology as a branch of sociology. Perhaps it is unnecessary to point out that, on historical grounds as well as on the basis of past and contemporary contributions, sociologists believe their claim on social psychology to be as
sound and as legitimate as that made by psychologists. Our freedom to continue to work in that area, it seems to us, is placed in serious jeopardy by the legislative enactments psychologists are sponsoring in the various states.”

In 1959, Talcott Parsons, chair, Committee on the Profession, reported: “Though not yet fully formalized we have agreed with the American Psychological Association on a policy whereby the latter recommends that sociologists specializing in social psychology should be legislatively exempted from the restrictions on practice otherwise imposed on non-psychologists, though no rigid single formula on exemption is recommended for all jurisdictions. The American Sociological Society undertakes its work, through its newly organized section on social psychology, to set standards for the certification of sociologists entitled to this privilege.”

**Academic Freedom**

The question of academic freedom was raised in 1950 by “the recent action of the Board of Regents of the University of California, to impose oaths or contractual clauses on faculty members in public educational institutions which are not imposed on other public servants.”

After considerable debate, the Business Meeting passed a resolution “deploring such discriminatory requirements” because “there is a special interest on the part of social scientists in the right of free inquiry in the field of controversial social, economic, and political issues...” The resolution was subsequently supported in a referendum, although “the propriety of such action by the Society” remained an issue.

**Social Science**

The social sciences came under attack in 1954 by a Special House Committee investigating tax-exempt foundations. In his report as representative to the Social Science Research Council, Conrad Tauber said, “The Committee staff developed an attack on empirical social science research and on the Council as one, if not the major, ‘servitory agency’ in a giant ‘interlock’ which has promoted basic changes in our national life and fostered empiricism, collectivism, and internationalism.”

The hearings were suspended after Pendleton Herring, SSRC President, gave what was viewed in the press as “a forceful defense of social science and an effective answer to the allegations that had been made before the Committee.”

That same year, the Society expressed “its confidence in the position taken by the Social Science Research Council, the Carnegie Corporation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and other organizations in upholding social science research as an integral and constructive part of the American way of life.”

Actually, the social sciences began to attract political support in Washington in the fifties from such persons as Vice President Richard M. Nixon, Senators Hubert Humphrey, Estes Kefauver, Jacob Javits, Wayne Morse, and Representatives Charles O. Porter and Richard Bolling. This growing support probably lead to the establishment of a unified Social Science Research Program in NSF in 1954.

**Science/Humanities**

The relationships between science and science and social science and the humanities placed some strain on the Society’s affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Council of Learned Societies in the fifties.

The Society had affiliated with AAAS in 1931. In 1952, a committee chaired by Raymond Bowers was established to consult with other social science associations concerning “the whole relationship between the social sciences and AAAS.”

That same year the Executive Committee empowered the President to protest AAAS offering a “prize in sociology” without consulting the Society. The prize, however, was in social science and not sociology. It eventually became the AAAS Social Psychological Prize.

In 1953, Bowers recommended that the Society postpone action because “AAAS is moving to redefine its objectives and program, and to reorganize its permanent staff.” In 1954, Bowers said, “...we cannot afford to withdraw our support from the only central organization of all science at a time when science and scientists are becoming so important and, at times, controversial.” Council agreed and urged members of the Society to participate more fully in the activities of Section K.

ACLS developed financial problems in the fifties which became “critical” in 1955. The Society had voted in 1954 to continue its affiliation with ACLS “provided that the annual costs to the Society do not exceed $100.” Grants from the Carnegie Corporation and the Houghton Foundation allowed ACLS to continue operating, but organizational problems remained.

In 1957, social science delegates asked ACLS to clearly state what services it performed for the social sciences. As a consequence, ACLS moved to strengthen its working relationships with its constituent societies, including those in the social sciences.
Chapter 8: Growth and Turmoil

The golden era of the Association reached its zenith in the sixties; a decade of turmoil and crisis for the Association as well as for American society.

In that decade, membership more than doubled—6,436 to 13,357; attendance at the Annual Meeting did the same—1,400 to 2,888; nine publication ventures were undertaken, and three major projects were launched.

Teaching began emerging as a major concern; a code of ethics was approved; the problem of presidential succession was confronted; an international congress was hosted; and some traditional problems were faced.

The Association, however, was in turmoil throughout the decade. The turmoil was generated by the growth in numbers and activities and by trends toward democratization and equalization that had been operating for, at least, four decades within the Association, and for even longer within the larger society.

In the first half of the decade, the crisis centered on the operation of the Executive Office, relations with regional and affiliated societies, the organization of the Association and the Constitution.

In the second half, the crisis focused on equalizing opportunities within the Association and the profession of women, racial and ethnic minorities, and members employed in non-academic settings as well as upon relations between the profession and the larger society, especially in response to proposed regulations of research, Camelot and the Vietnam War.

In 1963, President Everett C. Hughes outlined a guiding philosophy for the Association as it attempted to cope with the strains of growth: “Since we are a lively and growing organization, none of our problems can be solved once and for all. The best we can do is to seek solutions for the present and near future, with an eye to the direction of change, while remaining true to the goals of a learned and scientific society.”

Publications

The expansion of the publication program which began in the fifties gathered momentum in the sixties.

In 1963, the Association acquired the Journal of Educational Sociology from the Payne Educational Sociology Foundation, Inc. Renamed Sociology of Education, the first issue appeared that fall under the editorship of Leila Sussman. That same year, the fifth Russell Sage Bulletin was published—Sociology and the Field of Public Health—by Edward A. Suchman.

In 1964, the Association received an NIMH grant to produce a Guide to Graduate Departments of Sociology. The first issue was published in 1965. In 1966, the Committee on Publications authorized another edition of the Guide provided that it was “thoroughly revised” and financially feasible. In 1969, the second edition of the Guide appeared. It has been published on an annual basis ever since.

In 1965, the fifteen-year quest to publish a journal on the practical problems of the profession of sociology was realized when The American Sociologist appeared under the editorship of Talcott Parsons. That same year the Association, in cooperation with the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, published Sociology and Rehabilitation edited by Marvin B. Sussman. The volume reported the proceedings of a conference held that spring.

In 1966, the Association acquired the Journal of Health and Human Behavior for a trial period of three years. Renamed the Journal of Health and Social Behavior, the first issue was published in March that year under the editorship of Eliot Freidson. The transition period was supported by grants from the Milbank Memorial Fund and NIMH.

In 1967, Arnold M. Rose proposed a monograph series for the Association and made “suitable financial arrangements” for the series. The first publication in the Arnold and Caroline Rose Monograph Series was Deviance, Selvcs and Others by Michael Schwartz and Sheldon Stryker which was published in 1971.

Uses of Sociology, edited by Paul F. Lazarsfeld, William H. Sewell and Harold L. Wilensky was also published in 1967. The volume was a follow-up to the 1962 Annual Meeting.

In 1968, the first edition of Sociological Methodology appeared under the editorship of Edgar F. Borgatta. The first edition of the “Career Booklet” was also published that year under a grant from the Russell Sage Foundation and a “readers series” to be composed mostly of articles from ASA journals was approved.

Major Projects

The three major projects undertaken by the Association during the sixties were the Visiting Scientists Program for Sociology, Sociological Resources for Secondary Schools, and the National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel—Section on Sociology. The Visiting Scientists Program for Sociology, initially funded in 1962, continued throughout the
decade with support from NSF. In 1962, the Program was directed by a committee composed of Gresham Sykes, Donald Young, John W. Riley, Jr., Wilbert E. Moore, Paul F. Lazarsfeld and Talcott Parsons.

Under the Program, “outstanding” sociologists visited several hundred campuses to (1) present recent developments in sociology to teachers and students; (2) stimulate research in sociology, and (3) encourage interest in sociology as a professional career, both in academic and non-academic settings.

Sociological Resources for Secondary Schools was designed to develop sociological materials for social studies teachers. Initially funded in 1964, this project also continued throughout the decade with support from NSF. In the early seventies, it produced a textbook, readers and other instructional materials.

The project was developed by a committee composed of Leonard Cottrell, Jr., Robert Feldmesser, Harry Alpert, Paul Lazarsfeld, William Sewell, Robin Williams, Jr., Gresham Sykes, John A. Valentine and Neal Gross, chair. The first executive director was Robert Feldmesser; the first associate director was Paul Kelly.

The Executive Office began collecting data for and maintaining the sociology section of the National Register in 1964 and continued doing so through the decade with support from NSF. It was hoped that the data base would provide more complete information for the membership directory and for studies of the profession.

Teaching

The Visiting Scientists Program and the SRSS project helped focus attention on teaching in the sixties. In 1965, Council expressed “its continuing concern with the nature and quality of sociological instruction on the high school, college and graduate levels and strongly recommended that the 1966 Council take action to improve the quality of teaching in the field of sociology.”

The 1966 Council took two actions related to teaching. It empowered President-Elect Charles Loomis to appoint a committee to study the problem of undergraduate teaching of sociology and it advised the Committee on Classifications to “take into account not only scientific and scholarly contributions but also substantial contributions in the teaching of sociology as a primary responsibility” in determining a member’s status.

The Committee on Teaching Undergraduate Sociology was composed of William V. D’Antonio, Dean G. Epley, Russell L. Langworthy, Gerald R. Leslie, Charles M. Tolbert, and August B. Hollingshead, chair.

In 1969, Council approved two conferences and a survey of graduate training in sociology to be funded by NIMH. In addition, it appointed a committee to explore means by which “members who are primarily or wholly teachers” can best “achieve full participation in the ASA.”

The Committee on the Role of the Teacher Sociologist was composed of Ruth S. Hamilton, Kiyoshi Ikeda, Dennis C. McElrath, Robert P. Rankin and Julian A. Samora, chair.

Code of Ethics

The development of a code of ethics, originally explored in the early fifties, was revived in 1960 with the appointment of a Committee on Professional Ethics composed of Bernard Barber, Albert J. Reiss, Neal Gross, Robert A. Nisbet and Robert C. Angell, chair.

The committee produced a draft document covering teaching, research, consulting, publication and the profession and the public in 1963. Opposition to the adoption of a code of ethics developed and the code was shelved.

In 1967, another Committee on Professional Ethics was created “to consider those issues, relating to sociologists as scientists, that are currently in public attention.”

The attention-getters were Project Camelot, a study of social change that was being conducted in South America with funding from the Department of the Army, and the concern expressed by the Surgeon General over the protection of human subjects in research.

The new committee was instructed to develop “a set of general guiding principles, applying to the subjects of research as well as to research procedures.” The committee was composed of C. Arnold Anderson, A. Lee Coleman, Amiati Etizioni, William L. Kolb, Talcott Parsons, W. Richard Scott, Gideon Sjoberg, Preston Valien and Edgar A. Schuler, chair.

The document developed by the committee was approved by the membership in 1969 by a vote of 2,369 to 236.

Presidential Succession

The problem of presidential succession emerged with the death of President-Elect Arnold Rose in January 1968. Council ruled that Vice President-Elect Ralph Turner would succeed to the office of President-Elect and then to President for 1968-69.

Secretary Robin Williams reported that Council based its ruling on Article III, Section 1 of the By-Laws which “provides that in the event of the death, resignation or absence of the President his duties shall devolve in the first instance upon the Vice President, and that the officer thus involved shall become President if he is to serve a full term. Records of legislative intent in the drafting, revision and approval of the present Constitution, further show that the provisions of Article III, Section 1, are intended to apply to the Presidency, including the office of President-Elect.”

Williams continued, “Therefore, Council ruled that the office of President-Elect automatically devolves upon the Vice President-Elect. Since, in the instance at hand, the incumbent will serve for a full term as President, it was equally clear, and Council so
held, that his office is that of President rather than Acting President.”

The death of President Howard Becker in June 1960 did not create a similar succession crisis; for there were only three months left to his term.

International

The Association hosted the Fifth World Congress of Sociology in Washington in 1962. It received a $25,000 grant from NSF and a $50,000 grant from the American Council of Learned Societies to help finance the meeting.

One of the unusual social events held during the Congress was “An Evening of Symphony and Art” held at the National Gallery of Art. The musical program was performed by the National Gallery Orchestra.

In other actions, the Association established a Committee on International Order to promote research on war and peace; a Committee on International Cooperation to facilitate the “increasingly international outreach of the membership”; a Committee on Translating and Abstracting Scientific Publications in Foreign Languages, and a separate membership category of associate foreign members.

In addition, the Association submitted the report of the Committee on a Ten-Year Social Science Program for UNESCO to the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO and urged the Associated Research Councils to make travel funds available to families of scholars going overseas under the Fulbright-Hayes fellowships.

Traditional

The traditional issues involved (1) awards, (2) discrimination, (3) civil service, (4) lobbying, (5) academic freedom and (6) public relations.

The establishment of the Samuel A. Stouffer Award in Methodology by the Section on Methodology in 1966 and the Sorokin Lectureship and Award through a gift in 1967 produced calls for the development of a comprehensive award policy for the Association.

The discrimination problem arose again over the use of the swimming pool during the 1960 Annual Meeting at the Chase-Park Plaza Hotel in St. Louis. A resolution passed at that meeting states “the Association recognizes the difficulties of policy changes in the race relations area. Therefore, it especially appreciates the constructive change instituted by the Hotel’s management in regard to the swimming pool. And the Association hopes that other luxury hotels in the U.S. will follow the leadership and example of the Chase-Park Plaza, thereby avoiding embarrassment and conflict in the use of their accommodations.”

In 1965, after many years of steady work by the ASA Committee on Sociologists in the Federal Government, sociology was finally entered in the Federal Civil Service Register as an occupational title.

Increasing pressure to become involved in the legislative process, led the Association to seek legal advice on lobbying in 1961. A report from the counsel of the Association advised that “subsidized efforts to influence legislation might jeopardize the tax exempt status of the Association.”

In 1963, the Association endorsed the AAUP Statement of Principles relating to academic freedom and tenure. In 1968, it created the Committee on Freedom of Research and Teaching.

Public relations became a salient issue again in the sixties. In 1964, the Association appointed a committee “to investigate the possibility of holding a seminar for journalists and to study ways of reporting sociology and improving the reporting on sociology in the press.” In 1966, it retained a consultant “to organize press relations activities at the Annual Meeting for a trial period of three years.”

Hughes Letter

The crisis confronting the Association in the first half of the decade was outlined by President Hughes in a letter to the membership in 1962: “In the past year a good deal of unrest among members has come into the open. From the Executive Office and those who are most active in looking after the affairs of the Association, have come expressions of frustration as well as suggestions for reorganization."

Hughes attributed the “unrest” to four “pressing problems”:

1. The administration (the Executive Office); its composition, powers, remuneration, location, and housing.

He said, “The Association is growing in numbers and in specialization. Administration activities, and demands for services by members are increasing in some geometric ratio. The Executive Office is understaffed and not well paid. We sociologists have provided our staff with neither pension, health plan, nor any sort of system of rewards for overtime work (of which there is plenty at the time of our meetings). We are housed in miserable quarters, part of which we have on uncertain tenure.”

2. The Council, Executive Committee or other bodies which make policy and decisions on behalf of the members of the Association: their composition, powers, and selection.

Hughes said, “Some think the present Council too large, too clumsy, and not responsive to the will of the members...Some think there should be more representatives of regional and specialty societies on Council. Others think that, on the contrary, the Council should be small and should consist mainly of people elected by the members for that purpose, with strict adherence to the principle of ‘one man, one vote’. Some suggest further, that a small Council could perhaps meet frequently and that its members might participate more fully in the ongoing affairs of the Association than they now do.”
3. Affiliated societies and the specialty Sections.
Hughes said, “The relations of the Association with the seven regional and two specialty societies are also a major issue...What control should the Association have over them? Or they over the Association?”

He continued, “The same questions arise with respect to Sections...In some fields of learning, specialization has led to the breakup of the more general association; in other fields to change in internal constitution...In our Association, the present problem is that of better understanding and organization of the relations between the Association and its specialized sections; the long-term problem is some policy concerning the nature of specialties and their place in the scheme of things.”

4. The Presidency.
Hughes said, “Some have suggested that the President devote a year to the administration of the Association, to representing it before the regional societies, sister learned societies, the public and the government...In my opinion, the President should be so free of administrative detail that he could devote that year to encouraging his colleagues in the planning of a program of high quality, and to preparation of a presidential paper which might be an intellectual ornament and a paper which may open up new fields of thought and research.”

Executive Office
To handle the problem of the Executive Office, Hughes appointed a Committee on Organization and Plans composed of Philip Hauser, George Homans, Paul Lazarsfeld, Wilbert Moore, Talcott Parsons, Guy Swanson, Conrad Taeuber, Ralph Turner, Donald Young, himself, and John W. Riley, Jr., as chair.

In early 1963, the Committee recommended that the Association (1) procure a full-time Executive Officer, (2) assure adequate housing for the Association, preferably in close proximity to other social science associations and with appropriate space for committee functions and other amenities, and (3) give full consideration to Washington, D.C. as an appropriate location for the Association.

At a special meeting, Council authorized Riley to negotiate a three-year lease for 1,500 square feet of space in the new wing of the Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

In addition, Council authorized the appointment of a full-time Executive Officer according to the following agreed specifications: “...the incumbent should be a sociologist, a person of substantial professional standing, a good administrator, a diplomat, and (especially urged by John Useem) sympathetically supportive of the whole range of interests and activities in the profession. It was also agreed that the salary paid should be in the range of full professorships at leading universities.” Changes in salaries and fringe benefits for the administrative staff were also made.

The Association moved to its new location in 1963 with Gresham Sykes serving as the first full-time Executive Officer and Evelyn Stefansson as the second full-time Administrative Officer. Janice Harris Hopper, for whom the post of Administrative Officer was created in 1960, had announced in 1962 that she would resign no later than the 1963 Annual Meeting.

Reorganization

In 1965, the “Faris Committee” adhering “to the notion of a society of individual sociologists” recommended that Council be reduced from 32 to 14 members by eliminating representatives from regional and affiliated societies and editors of ASA publications. The new Council would be composed of five officers and nine members elected-at-large. Council would continue to appoint the Secretary and the Executive Committee would be retained.

The elimination of representatives from regional and affiliated societies continued the movement toward disengagement that began in the fifties and resulted in a 1962 amendment to the By-Laws. The amendment stated that “each regional society shall nominate as candidates for three-year terms on Council two of its members who shall be Fellows of the American Sociological Association; the names of the nominees of the regional societies shall appear on the ballot of the national Association and the voting members of the Association shall be instructed to vote for one of the two from their region and no others.” Regionals previously elected their own representatives.

The Faris Committee also recommended that the Committee on Nominations and the Committee on Committees be elected by members in six equal-size voting districts. The Committee on Publications would be elected-at-large.

In addition, the Committee called for the creation of a Committee on the Executive Office and Budget, a Committee on Regional Affairs, and a Committee on Sections. The Committee also reduced the powers of the President to presiding over meetings and filling vacancies that may occur on committees.

The Faris Committee Report generated a fair amount of controversy, especially over the degree to which power in the Association was still centralized.
Constitutional Revision

The task of reconciling the Faris Committee Report with the commentary from the membership was given to a committee composed of Marshall B. Clinard, Gerhard E. Lenski and J. Milton Yinger.

The Constitutional Committee retained most of the recommendations of the Faris Committee, but did make the following changes to further decentralize power in the Association:
1. The size of Council was increased to 18 members by adding the office of Vice President-Elect and three members elected at-large.
2. Members-at-large could not be re-elected to Council until one year after the expiration of their terms and no individual could serve more than two terms as a member-at-large.
3. The Secretary was to be elected directly by the membership and was ineligible for re-election. The Secretary would serve one year as Secretary-Elect, sitting on Council as a non-voting member.
4. The Executive Committee was eliminated.

The new Constitution was adopted by the membership in 1967.

Vietnam War

The Vietnam War emerged as an issue at the 1967 Annual Meeting when a demonstration was held outside the San Francisco Hilton and a resolution sponsored by the Sociology Liberation Movement calling for the “immediate end to the bombing of Vietnam and the immediate withdrawal of American troops from South Vietnam” was passed during the Business Meeting.

The resolution was submitted to the 4,429 voting members in a referendum in 1968 with the following results: “By a vote of 1,874 to 989 the voting membership voted that the Association should not adopt an official policy on the issues; but, by a vote of 1,472 to 1,247 these same members voted to favor the Members’ Resolution.”

The resolution was re-introduced at the 1968 Business Meeting in Boston but it was defeated. In response to another resolution, however, Council transferred the 1969, 1972 and 1976 Annual Meetings out of Chicago because of the treatment anti-war demonstrators received during the 1968 Democratic Convention.

In 1969, Council “censured and condemned those persons—members and non-members—who disrupted the presidential address and plenary session” that year in San Francisco with an anti-war demonstration.

Caucuses

Several caucuses became active in Association affairs during the 1968 and 1969 Annual Meetings.

In 1968, Council responded to a resolution presented by the Caucus of Black Sociologists by resolving that “the ASA shall make every effort to ensure that black sociologists are brought into the fullest participation in all aspects of the governance and other activities of the Association.”

That same year, Council endorsed in principle several provisions of a resolution presented by the ASA Radical Caucus that addressed sources of research funding, the conduct of research, and the publication of findings. Council referred the provisions to the Committee on Professional Ethics for inclusion in the proposed Code of Ethics.

In 1969, Council endorsed resolutions from the Caucus of Women Sociologists calling for “surveys of graduate departments on a regular basis, including listing of faculty and students by sex” and for the removal of “any barriers to equality that exist” in departments, universities, and institutions “as well as within its own jurisdictions.”

Government Relations

The Association passed a series of resolutions concerning Federal Government activities related to research during the sixties.

In 1965, it questioned “the need for fingerprinting and security forms for consultants in nonsensitive positions” and requested that its opinion be “solicited on any contemplated changes in the rules and procedures by which research grants are evaluated, assigned and administered by granting agencies...especially the National Institutes of Health.”

In 1966, the Association urged the Surgeon General to “initiate consultation with appropriate professional bodies” when developing safeguards for the rights of human subjects of research and expressed concern over increasing “governmental control over the gathering of data” as represented by the questionnaire approval required from the Bureau of the Budget for domestic projects and the clearance required from the Department of State for cross-national studies.

In 1968, it urged President Johnson “to grant equal status to all disciplines with regard to draft status” and expressed “strong opposition” to the proposed prohibition on the “use of federal funds to provide payment, assistance or services, in any form, with respect to any individual convicted of a riot-related felony.”

In 1969, the Association called upon HEW to keep “the scientific integrity of its review committees” intact by reconsidering its policy to submit such appointments to White House review and urged continuing support for the training and social research programs of NIMH and the Fulbright-Hays program.

During the sixties the social sciences were also brought to the direct attention of the Congress through hearings on (1) a Council of Social Advisors and (2) a National Foundation for the Social Sciences.