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In Spring 1980 the Social Science Division of Bennington College is sponsoring an interdisciplinary conference entitled:

THE NEW CLASS: INTELLECTUALS AND POWER

And if capital and labor are the major structural features of industrial society, information and knowledge are those of the post-industrial society.
- Daniel Bell

It may be argued that the growth of a critical intellegentsia disposed to support the "adversary culture" and reject the worth of dominant political and economic institutions is undermining the capacity of modern societies to maintain social equilibrium. - Seymour Martin Lipsett

Is there a new class that uses socialism as an ideology to mask its aspiration to become the ruler and exploiter of society? - Michael Harrington

The conference brings together concerned writers, scholars and social scientists to debate the thesis that there is a changed relation between knowledge and power in modern society and that a new intellectual class has emerged. In particular:

- Is there a connection between the human sciences, their practices, and the disciplinary structures of the clinic, the prison, the asylum, the factory, and the school?
- Does the growth of science, technology and the professions create a new political elite whose power stems from the possession of those forms of knowledge necessary to the administration of complex modern society?
- Have the artist and the critic like the intellectual also lost their adversary role vis à vis dominant cultural institutions?
- Is the thesis of a new class a revival of old themes about the managerial revolution and technocracy or does it in fact answer to a "spiritual crisis" among intellectuals themselves?

All inquiries should be addressed to the Speakers Committee, Social Science Division