

1949 U of Minn
Shartle-Lasswell 1st meeting

Meeting started with a brief resume of the 3 Lab. projects.

Shartle doubted if PAR would succeed by mail--cited the fact that his group is faced with the same problem--large number of items. They however plan to administer theirs in a face to face situation. They use selves as guinea pigs, also other departments--when the item pool is down to size will use them on Navy and business groups. In their studies of leadership they are interested in the dimensions of staff or group behavior, goal behavior and leadership behavior.

Darley noted the fact that the theme of social responsibility was an "emergent" one with regard to the Lab. projects.

Lasswell approved of term "social responsibility"--citing its UTILITY from a money angle, and also the fact that no existing dept. has a monopoly on s.r., hence important from an interdisciplinary point of view.

In commenting on projects --Lasswell cited the favorable aspects:

1. projects already fixed are utilizing INTENSIVE methods to study interperson l relations, while other depts. have used extensive methods. This gives the Lab. a real tactical advantage.

Lasswell forecast:

1. There seems to be no agreement on a theoretical structure--hence a major problem of the lab is that of definition(concept terms) and operational indices. The PAR project is stated in convention terms--have no functional definition. Says need functional definition of power. concrete case cited: Govt as an institution in shaping and sharing of decisions(choices in specified group sanctioned by severe deprivation)--this definition of decision can be used in any culture--it is synonymous with power. Can be asked in any framework. WHO makes decisions--some made by Govt, some made elsewhere.

No handicap starting conventionally, says Lasswell--however, using much too refined instruments for a superficial problem--raises question Why bother with people who relate selves to say a registration procedure(conventional approach). Want, says L. to concentrate on Big time politicians, ward committeeman, etc., the holders of power IN FACT. Intensive methods are useful in discerning how bosses, etc. operate and function. Thereby when the Lab groups locate operational situations, will study them intensively.

Summary:

1. forecast a sharpening up of definitions in conventional and functional sense(conceptual and operational)
2. use of intensive methods where likely to YIELD larger return--rather than incidental correlations,(which will result with present approach)

Shartle observes that the Lab is proceeding at normal rate--suspect that will want to go at it more intensively--one thing to plan, another to interpret--may stop research for awhile to bring it up to theoretical level. Shartles group had a number of discussion on matter of values. ex. in approach to Govt--two views; one says every item in a pool represents a value judgment

Darley cites fact that same fundamental knowledge would apply if interested in Communism, how to manipulate, what is sign. behavior, etc.

L. cites another dimensions--"Shape of things to come". Observes that a new caste society is developing, there is a continuation of garrison police states. Great many questions can be sharper if adopt a developmental consturcts--what kind of knowledge needed to deter this kind of development--in relation to one's preferences for a democratic society. Is t his the most productive way of spending one's research time--question to be asked regarding ones projects.

Lasswell continues that Allocation of research talent conditioned on a. preferred events or goals; b. manipulative processes; c. estimated future.

Darley cites fact that manipulative process also in realm of preference Sharlte --says that in thinking about manipulative processes--in order to do research say in intergroup tensions will need to know that increases or decreases intolerance.

Lasswell: reinforces Shartley--cites another dimension of the problem of values--ways of using mind--
1. goal clarification
2. forecasting of alternatives
3. trend thinking--what are sequences
4. scientific thinking--setting up a set of variables.
(only one of considerations) don't have to ask selves VALUE questions in the latter.

(had to leave momentarily)

Lasswell: Has group developed a vocabulary referring to events Gross--two schools of thought regarding values: 1. emerge in time; 2. devote attention.

Lasswell: can't take anything for granted in relation to academic tools. Problem will emerge if exposed to cross fire of various frames of reference. He has seen both points of departure. In the American scene seem to start out with "muddy approach"

cites Social science program at Chicago--Merriam, Park, Thurstone, Sapier group had first conferences on methods and procedures. One unifying idea was to study the Chicago metropolitan region--added other projects by verbal magic, by developing contrast studies to Chicago area. All men working together had a great deal in common since ~~kkkkkkkk~~ consensus had grown up--G. Mead, Merriam, Park--quite a well developed frame of reference. The projects rocked along, did not have rigorous self-critique--only as a consequence of budget contraction did such criticism emerge. Lasswell advises that criticism of projects should be done rather formally.

L. goes on to describe the various projects--local community each assigned to a specialist--would report results, but no reporting on design. Exceptions was Casuses of War Project--had a team. No penetration however of economic studies, or political and population studies. Beginnings in Gosnell study of Negropolitan where had team planning. SSRC served as a facilitating agency, but when lost cohesion regained only in sub-problems. U. of C. has not achieved interdisciplinary cohesion--striving toward it however

Meeting adjourned

Handwritten notes and signatures:
Lasswell
Shartley
Gosnell
Merriam
Park
Thurstone
Sapier
Mead
Darley
Gross
L.
Meeting adjourned