

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
		D 10

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Speaker Sees Scientific World Study

By AL GIBBS

Analysis of international problems, although still largely based on folk knowledge and literature, is becoming more scientific, an economist and leader in social science said here Wednesday night.

Kenneth E. Boulding, professor of economics at the University of Michigan, made the prediction during the second talk of the Brown and Haley lecture series at the University of Puget Sound.

The series concludes Thursday evening at 8 o'clock.

Boulding said the international situation operates on three levels: threats, exchange and integration.

Dominates System

"The threat system dominates the international system, at least in terms of resources employed," he said. The world war industry is about \$120 billion a year and this is primarily designed to preserve the credibility of threats and counter-threats.

Boulding defined the threat system as "you do something nice to me or I'll do something bad to you. It's very effective," he added.

The exchange system, he said, works on the principle of "you be nice to me and I'll be nice to you."

The integrative system involves the interaction of governmental and non-governmental agencies in such things as diplomacy, propaganda and

cultural exchange.

Seldom Reliable

Analyzing the effects of all three systems, though, is difficult, he said, because information about other countries is seldom reliable.

That information, he said, comes from diplomats, spies, and occasionally newsmen "who seem to get all their information while sitting in dark corners of bars."

Boulding said that all this information is unreliable since it is sifted through a value system designed to filter out unwanted information.

"The CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) is a monstrous apparatus for producing misinformation," he said. "Those people take everything they like and think is right and throw out everything they don't like."

Formulating Theory

Boulding said, however, that social scientists are beginning to formulate a theory which eventually may make international relations scientific and more predictable.

"The system must work in the manner of a computer," he said, "sifting out all the related happenings while identifying all the variables which might affect future occurrences."

The system, according to Boulding, is:

"Copernican, in that it takes the systematic approach rather than the foreign policy angle.

"Parametric, in that it attempts to identify the constants and understand the interactions between nations.

"Dynamic, because it implies the action-reaction theory of 'if this is mine, it's not yours.'

"Institutional, in that it recognizes the importance of practical application. In other words, the theory can't be too abstract to be practical.

"Transactional, because it not only emphasizes the peoples involved but the relations between them.

"And, it must be aggregative in the sense that it tries to reduce large amounts of information and separate the accidental elements from the truly significant ones.

"But the real problem," he concluded, "is to equalize the laws of this system with the laws of science so we can get the theory above the plane of guesswork."