Noble and Krimsky speak on industry/university relationships

(Continued from page 1) Remarldings in Congress and elsewhere may lead to the revival of a self-punted debate over the appropriate role of the public in governing science.

Sheldon Krimsky, a professor in the Urban and Environmental Policy Department at Tufts, spoke on university-industrial collaboration in the genetic engineering field, an area which raised much public concern.

Krimsky wrote that university-industrial ties could make universities too closely resemble industrial organizations. He declared, "Universities are special social resources with certain goals and values which are different from industrial organizations. If they come too much like industrial organizations then certain values such as academic freedom may suffer."

Krimsky said universities could become more like industrial organizations in terms of internal relationships with industrial firms or through internal management changes in which the university itself becomes industrial-like ventures. Both these changes are now occurring at universities engaged in genetic engineering research, he added.

Krimsky felt that certain safeguards could reduce the tendency of universities to become more like industries in genetic research. Such safeguards include requiring professors to make public their industrial affiliations and not allowing industrial donors to influence faculty appointments.

The proposed policies for the Whitehead Institute will allow the industrial sponsor to influence faculty appointments. This would be an important departure from past university practice and cause for some concern. Noble and Krimsky said.

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