

Educator Cites Pressure Groups

BERKELEY—Doctors and lawyers and other professionals seem to be heading toward an elite-controlled world, with government and individual alike dominated by pressure groups, a University of California political scientist says.

Dr. Corinne Gilb traces the steady growth of such groups as the American Medical Association in American history and concludes that they have achieved tremendous influence over everything to do with their respective professions.

She compares this to a "secular equivalent of the medieval concept of united Christendom, bonded together by quasi-public or quasi-private organizations."

TREND GLOBAL

This trend appears to be worldwide, she says, and can be expected to continue. She concurs with an earlier writer who predicts the change some day may result in a return to a caste-system, as free spaces and markets disappear.

Dr. Gilb's views are in a book, "Hidden Hierarchies," published this week by Harper and Row. It is the product of research since 1949. Mrs. Gilb, who has taught at Mills and San Francisco State Colleges, is with U.C.'s Center for the Study of Law and Society.

Her book is the first comprehensive study of the American professions, including medicine, dentistry, nursing, law, education, architecture, engineering, accounting, social and library work.

PYRAMID FORM

She sees a multitude of professional associations arising, in pyramid form, dominated by small numbers in each profession. By the time bills reach the legislatures, lots of decisions about them have already been made, "needing only the final touch of the legislative rubber stamp."

In fact, Mrs. Gilb concludes, the more well established professions can often in effect



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write their own laws—without danger of veto.

Such professions as the AMA and the bar association use public government to control preparation, entry and practice as doctors and lawyers, produce more favorable public opinion and make their work more uniform and predictable, the author says.

The associations are dominated by groups she calls elites who "use their power to entrench their own position and to stave off new professions, new ideas, or new ways of doing things which might be of service to consumers but would undermine their power or status or income.

REINFORCED

All of this is reinforced by public government, no matter which party is in power."

However, there has been a big increase in consumer demand for professional services, many of them, such as public education, now are regarded as a right. And, says Mrs. Gilb, public government is hiring more professionals and dispensing or paying for increasing amounts of professional services. As a result, on decisions involving consumer issues, the legislature is no rubber stamp, for the public has a say, according to the author.