error. This successful condensation of 69 indicated that the proper experimental conditions were being attained; however, judging from the low yield of 73, it was apparent that refinement of the technique was necessary if cyclization of the trans-isomer to the more highly strained trans-acyloin 72 was to be accomplished.

In the several subsequent attempts to cyclize 70, the apparatus and experimental procedure employed by Cram and Steinberg\textsuperscript{53} in their synthesis of the highly strained para-cyclophanes was used. This method differs from that of Prelog and co-workers in a longer reaction time and in the use of a more efficient high-speed stirrer, which affords a better sodium dispersion. In a typical run, 200 mg. of