

News of Science

NSF to Support In-Service Training for High-School Teachers

The National Science Foundation has announced that it will accept proposals to support, on an experimental basis, about 15 In-Service Institutes for Secondary-School Teachers of Science and Mathematics to be held during the academic year 1957-58. Summer and academic-year institutes are presently operating in 111 colleges and universities throughout the United States with support from the foundation.

In-Service Institutes for Secondary-School Teachers of Science and Mathematics will offer work in the subject matter of science or mathematics especially designed for secondary-school teachers. Institute meetings will be held outside regularly scheduled school hours—evenings, Saturday, or late afternoons—so that teachers may attend while still teaching full time in their schools. A typical institute might meet once a week for 2 hours, with perhaps half of the meetings devoted to laboratory work, for the full academic year of about 30 weeks.

Past experience has indicated that most secondary-school teachers desire academic credit, preferably graduate credit, for work successfully completed at the institutes. If such credit were given for an in-service institute, it might amount to two credit-hours per semester, or four per year. Such credit would, of course, be only at the discretion of the host institution. The in-service institute program contemplates that each group will be kept to about 15 members so that discussion may be full and free.

No stipend would be given directly to teacher-participants in the institute, but the grant would cover all usual tuition and fee charges of the host institution and any other direct costs to the host institution which may be directly attributable to the program.

It is hoped that in-service institutes may be established by many of the smaller, excellent colleges and universities outside metropolitan areas, as well as by larger institutions in urban centers, in order that teachers in outlying school districts may enjoy the advantages of training facilities not otherwise readily accessible to them.

Each application should outline the program intended, list the staff which will conduct it (as far as possible at such a preliminary date), mention special facilities which will be used, give opening and closing dates of the institute, criteria for admission, nature of academic credit attainable, a detailed budget, and a summary of any collateral support from the host institution or outside sources.

Fifteen copies of the complete proposal must be submitted. One copy of the proposal must bear the signature of the director of the program and of the college or university official authorized to sign for the host institution.

Foundation support will cover all tuition and fees plus any direct costs to the college or university directly attributable to the program. Deadline for submission of completed proposals to the foundation is *15 Mar. 1957*. Further details may be obtained from the Division of Scientific Personnel and Education, National Science Foundation, Washington 25, D.C.

British Antarctic Base

Extremely rough ice conditions have forced the British Commonwealth trans-Antarctic expedition to give up its plan for a base on the western side of McMurdo Sound. Sir Edmund Hillary, leader of the Pacific element of the expedition, reports that the base will be established instead at Pram Point, on Ross Island near the United States air operating facility on the east side of the sound.

New Atom Tests

A series of low-yield nuclear tests will be conducted at the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's Nevada Test Site, with the cooperation of the Department of Defense, beginning in late spring 1957. Tests of high-yield devices are not conducted in Nevada. The development of weapons for defense against attack is a major objective. Studies of weapons effects will also be continued in order to improve military and civil defense against nuclear attack. The Federal

Civil Defense Administration will participate in the series.

An extensive radiation monitoring network will again be used during the series. About 12 monitoring teams supplied by the U.S. Public Health Service will be stationed in communities near the test site. In addition, the Public Health Service network of monitors in about 40 cities across the nation, established prior to the last Eniwetok test series in the spring of 1956, will be in operation. Radiological monitoring also will be conducted at 12 commission installations. About 100 U.S. Weather Bureau stations will cooperate in this program.

Atomic Energy Hearings

The Joint Committee on Atomic Energy plans to hold public hearings beginning 19 Feb. to receive testimony from representatives of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, industry, and other interested individuals and organizations on the development, growth, and state of the atomic energy industry. Section 202 of the 1954 Atomic Energy Act requires that such hearings be held during the first 60 days of each new session of Congress.

The hearings are tentatively scheduled for 19-21 Feb. and 26-28 Feb., depending on the number of witnesses who wish to appear. It is presently planned to have the Atomic Energy Commission representatives lead off the first day and to have industrial and other interested witnesses appear on the days following. Those who do not wish to appear personally will be given opportunity to present statements for the record. Further information may be obtained from the committee staff, Room F-88, The Capitol.

Scientists Rebel in Soviet

A majority of the Soviet Union's most eminent mathematicians and physicists have challenged the present political control of Soviet science. They appear to have made progress in their demand that leading Soviet scientists be allowed democratic control over the development of Soviet science.

News of this revolt, as contained in the latest issue of the *Vestnik Akademii Nauk SSSR* (herald of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences), was reported recently by Harry Schwartz in the *New York Times*.

The essence of the controversy was revealed in the dissenting speech of one of the Soviet Union's leading nuclear physicists, Igor E. Tamm, a scientist who does not belong to the Communist party.

He explained that under the acad-