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## Height Makes Might

Everyone seems agreed that space science and technology are going to occupy a large place in the Federal Government—the question is where. A variety of government agencies would like to assume responsibility for developing the American space program, with much at stake both for the country and for the agencies. The central issue is the division of tasks between the military and civilian administrations, but there are also jurisdictional disputes within the two camps.

In the Pentagon, to the now familiar struggle among the Army, Navy, and Air Force, a new element is added, the Advance Research Projects Agency. Each of the armed services has something of a claim on the military aspects of space. Presumably, the Advanced Research Projects Agency was created to settle these claims by itself assuming them. The new agency, which is in the Defense Department, has the authority to initiate its own projects in its own facilities, the theory being that when the projects become operational they will be turned over to the appropriate service. In addition, the new agency has Congressional approval to handle nonmilitary aspects of space science for one year. Some critics claim, however, that instead of eliminating competition, the agency will only prove that if three is a crowd, so is four. For the present, according to Defense Secretary Neil H. McElroy, the new agency will limit its activities to reviewing the plans of the armed services, which is the more usual Defense Department procedure.

As to possible outside civilian agencies for space research and development, several proposals are being offered. A bill introduced by Senator Clinton P. Anderson (D.-N.M.) would put the 11-year-old Atomic Energy Commission in charge, while a proposal by the governing body of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics recommends that the 43-year-old committee itself engage in astronautical research, in conjunction with certain other existing government scientific agencies. Proponents of both plans point to going complexes of laboratories, and they claim records of successful administration and of close cooperation with the Pentagon. A third proposal is for the establishment of a totally new agency, perhaps along the lines of the A.E.C., or perhaps as a part of a projected Department of Science and Technology. Some observers note, however, that a new agency would have to start from scratch, both in its laboratory and administrative set-ups.

With the conflicting possibilities within and outside the Pentagon, the White House staff is offering recommendations and Congress is moving to consider them. James R. Killian, Jr., the President's assistant for science and technology, and a group of scientists working with him are studying space policy as well as examining a timetable of possible accomplishments. The Senate, following the proposal of Lyndon B. Johnson (D.-Tex.), has created a special 13-member Astronautical and Space Exploration Committee to bring together a variety of bills dealing with the subject. The committee is expected to frame a bill in time for passage this session.

If the developments of science are new, the problems that they raise for the administration of science are not. The successes and failures of the various approaches that have been tried before in this country bear some relation to the present question. With some attention to the lessons of history, we may expect to enter the age of reconnaissance satellites, moon shots, and space travel with sound government policies.—J. T.

