

members of the subcommittee stressed during the hearings. As Senator Gruening said, "The only way we can get these opinions effectively is to have a bill. It is just like trying to get an opinion from the Supreme Court. You cannot go up and ask for it, but if you have a case in court it ultimately gets there, and then you find out what the Supreme Court thinks on the subject."

#### Future Hearings

At the end of the morning sessions on 17 April, Senator Gruening said that the subcommittee would reconvene that afternoon. However, other obligations of the members interfered, and the hearings were adjourned. Additional sessions are expected to take place sometime in May. Before recess, Gruening said that the committee had received letters from many persons indicating their desire to testify. Testimony from this group, which includes Lloyd V. Berkner, Leonard Carmichael, of the Smithsonian Institution, and Vannevar Bush, will probably be heard during the coming sessions.

#### Antarctic Mountain Range Located

A United States research team has found and measured a range of antarctic mountains whose location had been in question for 20 years. The mountains, the Executive Committee Range, were first sighted during the 1939-40 U.S. Antarctic Service Expedition in the

course of a flight from Little America III. Four peaks were reported, but neither the location nor the heights could be determined. A second sighting occurred in 1947, when two Navy aircraft observers taking part in Operation Highjump reported two new peaks, one believed to be 20,000 feet high.

For a decade there was no further opportunity to investigate the range. Then a team participating in the National Science Foundation's United States Antarctic Research Program reported positive location of the mountains after a 3-week, 500-mile oversnow traverse that ended this past March. The expedition was led by John Pirrit of Glasgow, Scotland, station scientific leader at Byrd Station and glaciological project leader for the 1959 Antarctic Program.

The smallest of the ten peaks in the range is 7144 feet high—about 500 feet higher than Mount Mitchell in the Great Smokies, the highest U.S. mountain east of the Rockies. The largest peak of the antarctic range is 13,856 feet high, some 600 feet lower than Mount Rainier in Washington. The range runs north and south for about 60 miles, between 76°20' and 77°20'S. Preliminary geological investigation shows the mountains to be volcanic and about nine-tenths covered by snow and glaciers. Alpine-type glaciers flow down from the peaks to join the vast ice sheet of Marie Byrd Land. Glaciation has modified the mountain craters. Further studies will be made next October by a seven-man party.



Peak G-3, a 10,920-foot mountain in the newly located Executive Committee Range in the Antarctic. [Courtesy U.S. Navy]

#### Strengthening Basic Research

Leaders in science, government, education, and industry will study ways in which basic research in the United States can be strengthened, during a Symposium on Basic Research that will take place at the Rockefeller Institute in New York, 14-16 May. The meeting is being held under the joint auspices of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. President Eisenhower will address a dinner session on 14 May. Other speakers that evening will be James R. Killian, Jr., special assistant to the President for science and technology, and Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., president of the Sloan Foundation.

#### Grave Concern Expressed

In announcing the program, Warren Weaver, vice president for the natural and medical sciences of the Rockefeller Foundation and chairman of the Arrangements Committee of the symposium, said:

"Our country is literally pouring money and manpower into applied research and development. Many scientists, however, are concerned because we do *not* furnish, either in amount or kind, proper support for *basic research*. It is imaginative and free basic research that is principally responsible for furnishing new knowledge. And it is new knowledge that will make our country strong and our culture rich and satisfying.

"It is the purpose of this 'Symposium on Basic Research' to set forth and examine with candor the facts concerning the support of basic research in our country, to inquire realistically what are the blocks which prevent our doing what we all say we believe is important, to make concrete suggestions as to ways in which the situation can be improved and in general to proclaim the fundamental faith which we have in the importance of free and imaginative basic research."

#### Participation

In order to be sure that the symposium would be geographically representative and also widely representative of the fields of science and of the institutions that support basic research, it was decided that participation would be by invitation only.

Among those who will take part will be Detlev W. Bronk, president of the National Academy of Sciences and of the Rockefeller Institute; Paul E. Klopsteg, AAAS president; and George W. Beadle of California Institute of Technology, 1958 Nobel Prize winner in medicine and physiology. Others include Alan T. Waterman, director of the National Science Foundation and a member of the