

by E. L. Peterson, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture representative. Peterson discussed the role of research in U.S. agriculture, the demands of agricultural research in the next 50 years, research coordination in the department, relation of USDA research programs to those of other federal agencies, and current problems in the management of research.

AEC Calls for Limited State Role

A member of the Atomic Energy Commission told the Joint Atomic Energy Committee that the time had come in the growth of the atomic energy industry to "readjust" the regulatory responsibilities between the federal and state governments. Describing proposed legislation, Commissioner John S. Graham said that the AEC would favor transfer to the states of some of its licensing authority for control of radiation hazards. The legislation which the commission has proposed would give the states responsibility for protecting public health in the fields of ownership and use of radioactive by-products, including radioactive isotopes; ownership and use of uranium and thorium ores; and possession and use of nuclear materials such as enriched uranium and plutonium. Under the legislation these nuclear materials would be limited to amounts smaller than the critical masses that are needed for a nuclear chain reaction.

Responding to questions from committee members, Graham said that there were a number of states that were prepared to move forward rapidly if authorizing legislation were passed.

Panel Drafts International Convention on Nuclear Hazards

Agreement on the main points of a draft international convention on civil liability and state responsibility for nuclear hazards has been reached by a panel of experts convened in Vienna by director-general Sterling Cole of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The group, consisting of ten experts from as many countries, decided to meet again in the summer to discuss matters on which there is not yet agreement and to prepare its final report.

Aspects of a convention on which the experts reached a large degree of unanimity include the need for minimum international standards regarding the limitation of liability and the absolute nature of such liability. A flexible formula was devised to make it possible to achieve a wide acceptance of the convention, and it was recommended that the state would have to assume subsidi-

ary liability in cases where established limits were lower than those recommended as international minima.

Substantial agreement was also reached on questions concerning liability for transportation and waste disposal of radioactive materials and nuclear fuels.

The panel unanimously recommended that courts of the state in which nuclear installations are located should be exclusively competent to hear any claims for damages resulting from nuclear incidents; these courts would apply their own domestic law.

Concerning international transport, the courts of the state in whose territory an accident occurred would be the competent ones.

The first session of the panel was held in February 1959. Members who attended the second session, just concluded, were Paul Ruegger (Switzerland), chairman; Giuseppe Belli (Italy), C. H. Carruthers (United Kingdom), Edward Diamond (United States), Yoshio Kanazawa (Japan), B. N. Lokur (India), Anatol Nikolaiev (U.S.S.R.), Fuad Abdel Moneim Riad (United Arab Republic), Pavel Winkler (Czechoslovakia), and Enrique Zaldívar (Argentina).

Tenth Edition of "American Men of Science"

Editorial work on the tenth edition of *American Men of Science* is now in progress on the campus of Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. Biographies of more than 120,000 living Americans and Canadians who are actively contributing to the advancement of science will appear. Details will include the name, position, address, field, birthplace, degrees, positions held, memberships, and research specialties of each individual listed.

The directory will be put out in a different form than that of previous editions. The editor has found it possible, following the recommendation of an advisory committee, to publish the entries for the physical and biological sciences alphabetically in four volumes, to appear over a period of 3 years; these will be followed by the volume for the social and behavioral sciences. The publication of the A-E volume for the physical and biological sciences is well under way. The questionnaires for the physical and biological sciences have been mailed, so that everyone has had an opportunity to make nominations.

Anyone who was previously included in *American Men of Science* and who has not received a questionnaire should immediately write to Jaques Cattell, Editor, *American Men of Science*, Arizona State University, 820 College Avenue, Tempe, Arizona.

News Briefs

The Air Force School of Aviation Medicine will move from Randolph Air Force Base, near San Antonio, Texas, to new, multimillion-dollar quarters southwest of the city, beginning in July. To date, the Government has taken possession of three of the seven buildings comprising the new institution. They are the Flight Medicine Laboratory, the Academic Building, and the Research Laboratory Shops. The Research Institute Building, which will house the school's headquarters, is to be accepted in mid-June; the Heating-Cooling Plant and Altitude Laboratory, in July.

According to Maj. Gen. Otis O. Benson, Jr., commandant of the School of Aviation Medicine, movement of personnel and equipment to these facilities is tentatively scheduled to begin on 13 July.

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A preliminary assistance mission of the International Atomic Energy Agency left Vienna last month for a tour of five member states in the Far East: China (Taiwan), Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and Viet-Nam. This is the second such mission to be sent out by the agency this year; the first visited Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia, and Thailand. The mission to the Far East, which is headed by Harold Smith of IAEA's Division of Isotopes, is expected to return to Vienna in early July.

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Three U.S. Office of Education specialists are visiting in Russia and Poland to observe methods of training elementary and secondary school teachers in the fields of mathematics, science, and industrial arts. The team is spending a month in the U.S.S.R. and a week in Poland. The travelers are William K. Medlin, Marshall L. Schmitt, and Clarence B. Lindquist, who will return to Washington late in June to prepare a report.

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The Institute for Research in Hypnosis, established by a charter from the Education Department of the State of New York, has opened its new headquarters at 33 E. 65th St., New York, N.Y. The institute is a nonprofit educational corporation organized to sponsor education and research in clinical and experimental hypnosis.

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The Deafness Research Foundation has announced initial grants of \$13,240,000 from foundation funds for basic research in hearing and deafness. The foundation, established less than a year ago, is the only national voluntary health organization founded and governed by laymen that is devoted primarily to fundamental research on the causes, prevention, and cure of deafness.