

Ernest S. Gruening (D-Alaska) is also worried about what he described at the hearings as "the gaps that exist between the executive branch of the Government and the Congress." In referring to the situation, he used the terms "dichotomy" and "lack of entente."

Still another participant, Ralph Yarborough (D-Tex.), added his note of protest by pointing out that the success of the executive branch's science advisory bodies depends in large measure upon the personal rapport between the President and his science adviser. Emphasizing that these "organs" exist solely at the will of the President, Yarborough asked: "Will they function effectively, or even exist, when the climate of opinion changes or when the White House has a new occupant?"

Yarborough's reference to rapport with the science adviser raised a point that has especially disturbed some Congressmen: the great reliance that has been placed on Killian personally. Almost every witness at the recent hearings, whether for or against the bills being considered, referred to his special role. Congressional spokesmen noted that on the very day that the committee was discussing Killian's unusual importance, his resignation was announced.

Retired Officers' Role in Defense Industry To Be Studied

In early July a special subgroup of the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives will look into the role of retired officers in the defense industry. The group, the subcommittee for special investigations, headed by Representative F. Edward Hébert (D-La.), will examine charges recently made that former military personnel who, on retirement, take jobs with Defense Department contractors in industry are unduly influencing the placement of contracts. The matter has come up in past years, but no conclusive action has been taken. It came up again early this month when Representative Alfred E. Santangelo (D-N.Y.) attempted to amend the Department of Defense appropriation bill by adding a provision that would prohibit the awarding of any contracts to companies which employ military officers who have been retired for less than 5 years. Two votes were taken on Santangelo's proposal. The result of the first—a standing vote—was 131 to 130 against the amendment. Following this Santangelo called for a "teller" vote, which allows for greater accuracy. This resulted in 125 "ayes" and 147 "noes." (The discrepancy in the total number of votes was the result of changes in the

number of House members on the floor in the course of the voting.)

The following day another approach to the problem was initiated by Representative Charles Bennett (D-Fla.) when he introduced a bill (HR 7555) to prohibit the employment by industrial concerns which do defense work for the Government of persons who had worked in the defense establishment. Bennett had introduced similar bills in both the 82nd and 83rd congresses, but there had been little response.

Problem is Complex

The question that the special investigation committee will study is this: What is involved when a retired officer takes a job with a firm that does a great deal of defense work? In many cases the individual involved simply goes from one side of the table to the other. During his military services a man may be the contracting officer who orders certain items of equipment for his base or unit. He may, on retirement, be offered a selling position by the firm with which he had had dealings.

The House debate brought out two conflicting views of the role that such ex-officers may have if they accept jobs with defense contractors. Santangelo, speaking for his amendment, cited two major points. "Persons within the Department [of Defense] who may be looking forward to possible employment with a certain organization after retirement can display partiality and favoritism without ever realizing it. Further, prominent military figures in retirement can have a great influence over their former subordinates who are still in the Department. Contact at social and professional gatherings between active and retired officers can provide a perfectly natural setting for influence and favoritism." After citing very large increases in capital investment on the part of three airplane companies since 1952, Santangelo asked his fellow members this question: "Why do these industrial contractors engage or hire retired military or naval officers at inordinate salaries? Is it because of their technical knowledge or is it because of their relationship with their former colleagues or former subordinates who are at the levers of control?"

As the vote indicates, more than half the House members were opposed to legislation designed to prohibit officers from taking jobs in industry after retirement. The case for the opposition was put by Representative Samuel S. Stratton (D-N.Y.): "I think there are two points that ought to be borne in mind by the House. In the first place, we are denying to our defense industries, if this amendment goes into effect, the services

and assistance of the very people who have had the most experience in the fields of weapons and related matters. . . . If this amendment were to go through in this extreme form, we would actually be jeopardizing our own national defense. We would be throwing out the baby with the bath. Secondly, this House not too long ago adopted the so-called 'hump' bill for the Navy, and we are expected soon to be presented with a similar piece of legislation for the Air Force, under which valuable officers in the higher ranks will be forced to retire before their time with a lesser return in retirement pay. If this amendment were to be adopted, therefore, we would be foreclosing to these loyal officers, many with families still to educate, the chance of entering certain fields of gainful employment after their forced retirement, particularly those fields where they are best qualified and best able to serve.

Obligation to Whom?

More complex issues are also involved, however. For the officers concerned, especially the graduates of the service academies, the problem becomes a very difficult one. During the debate that followed Santangelo's proposal, a case in point was offered by another member. He told of a colonel currently in service who is an expert in nuclear energy. All of the officer's higher schooling had been paid for by the Government, from West Point through graduate work at the Massachusetts and California institutes of technology. The colonel had served for 20 years and was entitled to retirement at any time. Or, if he chose, he could stay on and complete 30 years' service. The colonel put his problem this way. "I have a family of four youngsters all going to high school at the present time, about ready to go to college. I have the opportunity to retire and to go to work for one of the larger companies at a salary twice what I am now receiving. To whom do I owe the obligation? Do I owe it to the country who gave me my education, . . . who sent me to MIT and to CalTech, and for whom I have worked through the years? Or do I owe the obligation to my family, to take my pension and go out into newer fields where I can double my salary?"

Debate May Be Long

Because of the complexity of the retired-officer problem and the fact that there are strong arguments on both sides, the Hébert investigation may be long and involved. Apart from the main issue, there is a possibility that another matter, currently in the news, will impinge on the investigation. This is the "munitions lobby," on which President Eisenhower has recently commented. In

remarks to several Senators, the President has indicated that he feels that "something other than the strict military needs of this country" is having influence on the decisions that determine national defense policy. If this matter, which in the opinion of some commentators has an obvious relationship to the role of retired officers in the defense industry, is made a part of the Hébert investigation, July may be a very noisy month in Washington.

Senate Votes Space Agency \$485 Million for Fiscal 1960

By a vote of 88 to 1, the Senate has passed an authorization bill (HR 7007) that exactly conforms to President Eisenhower's request for funds for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. A total of \$485 million is authorized by the bill for the space agency's operations during fiscal year 1960. John E. Stennis (D-Miss.), chairman of the NASA authorization subcommittee, said the amount would probably be the smallest of the yearly space authorization bills to come before Congress in the next 5 to 10 years. The Senate action restored a number of cuts made in the bill by the House of Representatives. Funds amounting to \$4.75 million, which NASA requested for a rocket-fuel research center, had been deleted by the lower chamber on the grounds that NASA officials did not have a definite site in mind for the center. The Senate committee restored the funds after hearing that a decision on the matter would be made within 3 months. In passing the bill, the Senate also added a provision requiring the space agency to notify both the House's Science and Astronautics Committee and the Senate's Aeronautical and Space Science Committee before any research and development project costing \$250,000 or more is begun.

Another lopsided vote—392 to 3—resulted in House approval of the authorization bill for the Defense Department. The bill, which provides approximately \$39 billion for the armed services, will need Senate approval before it becomes effective. The total provided was about \$400 million less than the President requested in his budget and about \$1 billion less than was voted for fiscal 1959. In making its authorization, the House of Representatives followed the recommendations of its Defense Appropriations subcommittee. In its report the committee said it "is not happy over the prospect of being in second place to the U.S.S.R. in the highly significant ICBM field." One of the committee's recommendations was for \$85 million "as a

down payment" for another eight squadrons of Atlas ballistic missiles.

In another appropriation action, the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy has approved a bill to provide the Atomic Energy Commission with \$180 million for fiscal year 1960. The greater part of this amount—\$165 million—is for plan acquisition and construction. Another provision increases the funds for research on atomic fallout from \$2 million, which the commission requested, to \$3 million. The congressional committee also extended for another 5 years a compulsory patent-licensing provision that prevents a private company from obtaining monopolistic control of the atomic-energy industry by restricting the use of any major discovery its employees might make while doing work contracted for by the AEC.

Progress in Mental Health Care

The National Association for Mental Health reports that resident patients in state and county mental hospitals stood at 545,000 on 31 December 1958, compared to 548,000 at the end of 1957, a reduction of approximately one-half of 1 percent. Admissions in 1958 were 210,000, compared to 195,000 in 1957—a rise of about 8 percent. The net fall in the resident population of the state and county hospitals in the face of the steep increase in admissions indicates that more patients are getting more treatment. However, the association's annual report warns that it is primarily the new admissions that are being helped and discharged. The great majority of the old patients are getting little or no treatment at all.

When rated according to minimum standards set by the American Psychiatric Association, few mental hospitals are shown to be giving their patients the treatment they need. Of the 228 mental hospitals and institutions inspected by the American Psychiatric Association by the end of 1958, only 34 were approved. Sixty-six had been given only conditional approval and 109 were disapproved. Reports on the remaining 19 had not yet been released at the time the mental health association's annual review was being written.

Preservation of Educational Standards During Teacher Shortage

A nationwide program of experiments on ways of preventing deterioration of education resulting from the mounting shortage of college teachers by improving the use of available teaching resources has been described in a report issued by the Fund for the Advancement

of Education (477 Madison Ave., New York 22). The study discusses the following innovations: (i) more responsibility to students for their own learning; (ii) regular use of television, films, self-teaching machines, and other technological devices; (iii) teaching students in large groups, which ranged as high as from 100 to 400; (iv) use of graduate and undergraduate teaching assistants or part-time faculty members; (v) streamlining the curriculum to reduce proliferation and duplication of courses.

The experiments reviewed in the report were supported by the Fund in 1956 and 1957 to make better use of college teachers' time, talents, and skills. The report was submitted to the Fund by a group of college and university administrators who form the Committee on Utilization of College Teaching Resources. The committee was established in 1956 to formulate the program of experiments. In the 2 years, the fund has made 62 grants totaling \$994,845 to 48 colleges and universities.

News Briefs

The Office of Science Information Service of the National Science Foundation has started a series of studies of national scientific and technical communication systems that are intended to serve as an information base for the development of future cooperative programs. Grants have been made to examine national systems as follows: Poland, John L. Mish, through the New York Public Library; Japan, George H. Kerr, through the Pacific Science Board; Indonesia, John O. Sutter, through the Pacific Science Board. The program will be expanded to include other areas of the world. Plans for publication resulting from these studies will be announced later.

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A 6200-volume set of books on entomology has been acquired by the D. H. Hill Library at North Carolina State College. The collection, purchased from Frederick F. Tippmann, an engineer and amateur ornithologist, had a market value of \$60,000 and included many rare volumes. This acquisition, according to college officials, makes the Hill Library the foremost institution in the Southeast in entomological material and places it among the leading institutions in the nation in this field. The Tippmann collection was described as "one of the few remaining great private entomological libraries."

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The presidents and top scientists of 20 Rocky Mountain colleges and universities have joined together to form a new cooperative research corporation, Asso-