

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-