

tax credit for every \$1 given to institutions of higher learning by individuals and corporations. In the case of an individual, this credit would be limited to 10 percent of his adjusted gross income if he takes the standard deduction or uses the short form for his tax return, or 30 percent if he itemizes his deductions; in the case of a corporation the limit would be 5 percent of taxable income. Within these limits it would, in effect, cost the taxpayer nothing to contribute to education. Chancellor Furnas estimates that a plan such as that proposed by Congressman McDowell will yield approximately \$2 billion for higher education.

Under provisions of the bills introduced earlier this year by Thompson and Murray, the flow of funds to education would be increased by allowing all taxpayers to subtract from their tax payments 91 percent (52 percent for corporations) of the amount they had contributed to institutions of higher education within an upper limit of 15 percent (10 percent for corporations) of their adjusted gross income.

#### Administration Opposed

Reports on the bills from the governmental departments will almost without question be unfavorable. Previously proposed legislation, particularly that concerned with tax credits for college tuition, has revealed the Administration's position on such measures. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has opposed such tax credit measures on the grounds that they are inconsistent with good public policy. In the department's view, support of bills such as the McDowell and Thompson proposals would constitute an abdication of responsibility. Public funds, the department feels, should be disbursed by the elected representatives of the people—the Congress—on the basis of criteria set up to meet the educational needs of the country as a whole. Otherwise, in the administration's view, there would be no guarantee that particularly needy educational institutions would receive the support they require. Tax revenues that are now being used to support such nationwide programs as that set up through the National Defense Educational Act would, the department feels, be donated to institutions preferred by the individual taxpayer.

The Treasury Department opposes tax credit bills of this type on the simple grounds that they deprive the federal government of funds due it under present income tax laws. If, as Furnas sug-

gests, a bill based on his proposals will bring in \$2 billion to educational institutions, it will also divert that much revenue from the government.

Opposition on these grounds, which apply equally to the McDowell and Thompson bills, will probably result in strongly unfavorable reports from the departments. How will these reports influence the two committees to which the bills have been referred? To judge from past response to measures of this nature, only a heavy and concerted drive in Congress could make the current bills into law. There is little evidence that such a drive is in preparation.

#### Committees Named for Science Writing Awards

Ten representatives from the fields of journalism, science, and education have been named to administer the recently established AAAS-Westinghouse Science Writing Awards. The ten, who will compose the screening and judging committees, will select the best science writing, exclusive of that in medicine, to appear in the nation's newspapers and general magazines during the current contest year. The writer of the best science story in each of the two types of publications will be awarded \$1000. The awards will be presented at the annual meeting of the AAAS in Chicago in December.

The judges are: Graham DuShane, editor of *Science*; Earl English, dean of the school of journalism at the University of Missouri; Caryl Haskins, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; James A. Linen, publisher of *Time*; Morris Meister, president of Bronx Community College; Alan T. Waterman, director of the National Science Foundation; and J. Russell Wiggins, vice president and executive editor, *Washington Post and Times Herald*, and president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

The screening committee has the following members: Hillier Kriegbaum, department of journalism, New York University; Sidney Negus, department of biochemistry, Medical College of Virginia; and James Stokley, school of journalism, Michigan State University.

The AAAS-Westinghouse Science Writing Awards were established to give recognition and encouragement to outstanding science writing, to stimulate public interest in science, and to foster a deeper understanding of the significance of science by the general public.

The AAAS, the National Association of Science Writers, and Westinghouse cooperated in setting up the awards, which are supported by a grant from the Westinghouse Educational Foundation.

Entries in the newspaper competition must have been published between 1 October 1958 and 30 September 1959; in the magazine competition, entries must have appeared in editions dated between October 1958 and September 1959 inclusive. To be eligible, all entries must be posted before midnight, 10 October 1959, and must have been published in a newspaper or magazine within the United States.

Inquiries about the competition and requests for entry blanks by entrants or their editors should be addressed to: Graham DuShane, Administrator, AAAS-Westinghouse Science Writing Awards, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C.

#### "Takuyo Maru," Another "Lucky Dragon"?

Last July the Japanese Coast Guard vessel *Takuyo Maru* abandoned a scientific survey in the South Pacific after encountering radioactive rain 186 miles outside the danger zone for the United States Eniwetok nuclear test area. Now Hirokicho Nagano, 34, chief engineer of the survey ship, has died of leukemia. The Associated Press quotes Japanese officials as having said on 5 August:

"We cannot announce the cause of death now because it is a very delicate matter that could cause international repercussions. There will be an announcement later."

A spokesman for the Atomic Energy Commission reports that the medical question of whether or not the leukemia can be traced to the incident is under investigation. At the time of the accident, American and Japanese physicians examined the crew and found no evidence of harmful radiation, although some of the men had suffered a decrease in white blood corpuscles. Nagano was one of these.

There have been no continuing medical studies because the levels of exposure were considered to have been very low. However, a definite figure is not available since the *Takuyo Maru* did not carry instruments for measuring radioactivity. In fact, last summer Japanese newspapers were sharply critical because the vessel had been sent into the area without a Geiger counter.

Nagano's death may well grow into