

Mines and Technical Surveys, will take 5 years to complete. When in operation, it will have a staff of some 300 oceanographers, hydrographers, submarine geologists, and other scientific personnel, plus supporting staff, and an operating fleet of ten oceanographic vessels. A multi-million-dollar ship-building program is already under way to provide the fleet of vessels; it is expected that the first of these, the \$7-million *C.G.S. Hudson*, will be commissioned in 1961.

The establishment of the institute, which is to be known as the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, was announced on 5 August by Paul Comtois, Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. He reported that the Bedford facility will study the physical characteristics of the waters and underlying sea bed of Canada's Atlantic and subarctic coasts. The resultant data are needed for anti-submarine defenses and to ascertain the resource potential of the continental shelf in these regions.

The new organization will also permit the expansion of the Atlantic and subarctic sections of the Canadian Hydrographic Service. These sections will be moved from Ottawa to Bedford Basin, a reorganization that will greatly facilitate hydrographic operations in eastern and northern areas, where most of the coastline is uncharted. In addition, the institute will house the regional office of the Geological Survey of Canada.

Comtois pointed out that the project will mean the building up, near Dartmouth, of a strong center of marine science. There will be liaison with the Fisheries Research Board, the Atlantic Oceanographic Group (to be housed in the new institute), and with Dalhousie University, which is setting up—with the help of the National Research Council grant—an Institute of Oceanography for the training of scientists, many of whom will be employed by the new federal institute. The center will also be the headquarters of the polar group of oceanographers, hydrographers, geologists, and other scientists working in the icebound sections of the remote arctic. They will carry out a broad program of oceanographic research on the rim of the Arctic Basin.

Canada possesses little knowledge of the oceans which surround it. Except for a specialized program in oceanography by the Fisheries Research Board, conducted over the years, oceanography in Canada has been a neglected science, mainly because of the size and great expense of the job to be done.

## **Project Teepee Monitors Missile Shots and Upper Air Explosions**

An electronic surveillance system, capable of detecting missile firings and explosions of nuclear weapons in the upper atmosphere, has been monitoring Soviet space activities for the past several months. The system, which is operated from bases within the continental U.S., can pick up such firings regardless of their point of origin. Missile launchings in this country and Russia have been successfully monitored by the new system, as well as some of the atomic weapon tests that were conducted in the Pacific before the suspension last October.

The Teepee system was developed by members of the Office of Naval Research working under W. J. Thaler. It is able to detect targets beyond the horizon by bouncing signals in a zig-zag pattern between the earth and the ionosphere. At each point of bounce there is some reflection of the signal back to its point of origin. This return, called backscatter, has certain characteristics as it appears on receiving screens at the transmitting-receiving station. If the radio signals encounter large volumes of hot gases, such as those created by rocket firings or atomic weapon tests in the upper atmosphere, the characteristics of the backscatter are significantly different. By analysis of these characteristics, operators at Teepee stations can identify the source of the gases. The new system is said to be capable of distinguishing between large and small missiles and between successful and unsuccessful firings. It is also said to be able to discriminate between natural phenomena, such as lightning and aurora, and man-made disturbances.

The Teepee system, which Thaler believes can be much improved, complements other missile and test detection systems which are now in use, or planned, such as the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System, certain powerful radar sets in Turkey which can scan much of the Soviet Union, and a proposed satellite system which would use infrared sensors to detect launchings and blasts.

These systems, supported by the new Teepee technique, which is said to be able to detect more than 95 percent of all atmospheric weapons tests and rocket launchings, are believed by many observers to give the United States fairly thorough and current knowledge of Soviet progress in missile and weapons development.

## **Mueller Is Commerce Secretary**

Frederick H. Mueller, who served as acting Secretary of Commerce following the resignation of Lewis L. Strauss after his long and unsuccessful confirmation fight, was given the oath of office for the top Commerce position on 10 August. He had been nominated to the cabinet post 21 July and was confirmed for the job in early August.

Mueller, who has been with the department since November 1955, has held the posts of Assistant Secretary for Domestic Affairs and Under Secretary. He was born in Grand Rapids, Mich., and was educated in the state, receiving his bachelor of science degree from Michigan State University in 1914.

As Secretary of Commerce, Mueller will have responsibility for many units of the department which carry on scientific work. Among these are the National Bureau of Standards, the Weather Bureau, and the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

## **Dismissed Arkansas Professors Receive Aid from Fellow Teachers**

Four University of Arkansas professors, dismissed for refusing to file affidavits under a new Arkansas law, will receive the full support of the American Association of University Professors in finding posts elsewhere. William P. Fidler, AAUP General Secretary, has also announced that the professors will get significant financial assistance from the association's Academic Freedom Fund.

Act 10 of the Arkansas Statutes, passed at a special 1958 session, requires all publicly employed teachers to list the organizations to which they have belonged or to which they have contributed during the past 5 years. The act is generally regarded as an anti-NAACP measure, but the language covers churches, political parties, social clubs, and professional societies. A test case has been started, but a final legal verdict, especially if it involves constitutional questions pertaining to civil liberties, may be delayed.

Max Carr, Frederick G. Friedmann, John L. McKenney, and Thelma W. Taylor (whose fields are philosophy and music) base their refusal on principle. One of the teachers quotes Jefferson: "to suffer the civil magistrate to intrude his powers into the field of opinion and to restrain the profession or propagation of principles, on the supposition of their