

tivities are under the continuing direction of an executive committee, consisting of the chairmen of the seven committees plus key representatives in the Washington, D.C., area. Some of these committees are quite large; for example, the program committee has 79 members and the tours committee, 66. In all, more than 270 American foresters and individuals engaged in forest industries are now helping in the preparations for the congress.

Some 13,000 to 14,000 copies of a preliminary announcement, in five languages, have been distributed to a special mailing list of key forestry agencies and institutions throughout the world. The foreign mailing list now contains more than 1800 names, about six times as many as any previous list. A more detailed information guide covering application for membership, preparation of program papers, plans for programs and tours, and so on, will be issued early in 1960. Meanwhile inquiries concerning the congress may be made to I. T. Haig, Executive Secretary, Organizing Committee, Fifth World Forestry Congress, Department of State, Washington 25, D.C.

Educators Named To Administer National Aptitude Census among High-School Students

The local officials who will administer Project Talent—a plan to test the aptitudes and abilities of a 5-percent sample of U.S. high-school students—were named recently by the administrator of the project, John C. Flanagan of the University of Pittsburgh. The 90 men, most of whom are educators or administrators at colleges and universities throughout the country, are now beginning to arrange with local school officials for the administering of the 2-day battery of tests next March. About half a million students in approximately 14,000 secondary schools will be tested during the study. One of the program's objectives is to take an accurate inventory of the talents of the nation's secondary-school students. A second, and longer range, objective is to correlate test scores of individuals with their subsequent histories, and thus to provide information for use in school counseling. A third objective is to evaluate the effects of such educational practices as accelerated programs for gifted students.

The tests will seek to assess not only

a student's aptitudes but also his interests, personality, and achievements, especially in reading and mathematics. In addition, a student will be asked questions about his aspirations, family and community background, and health. Also planned are follow-up studies at intervals up to 20 years from the time of the test. The project, which is financed by the U.S. Office of Education and other government agencies, has been timed to coincide with the 1960 population census. It will be carried out in public, private, and parochial schools in both rural and urban areas. The names of the schools will be announced later this month.

Biological Data Handbook

On 1 September 1959, the *Handbook of Biological Data* office, henceforth to be known as the Office of Biological Handbooks, was transferred from the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council to the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. A new Committee on Biological Handbooks, responsible for policy, has been selected; its chairman is Raymond L. Zwemer of the science adviser's office in the Department of State.

The committee has approved the preparation of a tabular compilation on "Composition of Blood and Body Fluids," which is to be completed in the autumn of 1960. Then work will begin on a handbook on growth. Additional projects were discussed at the first meeting of the committee, which was held on 16 November in the *Handbook* office in the Dupont Circle Building, 1346 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.

Navy Surveys Basic Research

A Navy study of basic research that was released last fall outlines the characteristics of such research in industry, government, and universities and reports some significant facts. After emphasizing that basic research investigators "are exceedingly rare in number," the report points out that most of them have doctoral degrees, although only 2 percent of the nation's college graduates continue their education through the doctoral level. Of this 2 percent, only about one in five remains in basic research work. Studies indicate that not more than half of these have the

outstanding talent necessary for the creative work of basic research and that this half produces 80 percent of the scientific output. At present the United States has about 27,000 basic research scientists, according to the survey; therefore, about 13,500 investigators are producing the country's principal research results.

The leading corporations in the United States are investing an increasingly large proportion of their research and development budgets in basic research, in some cases as much as 20 percent. The report states that the majority of the research directors interviewed for the study thought that some 15 to 20 percent of the Navy's research and development budget should be allocated for basic research. At present the ratio is 6 to 8 percent.

The 2-year study was conducted for the Naval Research Advisory Committee by Arthur D. Little, Inc., of Cambridge, Mass. Headed by Guy Suits, vice president and director of research for the General Electric Company, the committee is the Navy's top advisory group on research. Copies of the two-volume survey may be obtained from the Office of Technical Services, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D.C.

Summer Institutes Announced for High-School and College Teachers

Funds will be available in 1960 to help about 18,000 high-school and college teachers of science, mathematics, and engineering to participate in 379 summer institutes sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Grants totaling more than \$21 million will be awarded to support the institute program in 265 educational institutions located in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Some 316 of the institutes will be open to high-school teachers only, 37 will be for college teachers only, 24 will be for both high-school and college teachers, and two will be for technical-institute personnel. Approximately 16,000 high-school teachers and 2000 college teachers will participate, with the aid of NSF.

The success of previous summer institutes has contributed greatly to the growth of the program. The first two summer institutes supported by the National Science Foundation were held in 1953. The number has grown each