on the natural sciences could lead to "a relative impoverishment to the humanities and social sciences which would certainly not occur if the universities and university scholars were permitted free exercise of their own judgments."

3) "Granting agencies are frequently favorably inclined toward ambitious proposals for so-called programmatic research. . . . It is becoming increasingly difficult to develop support and appreciation for the highly individualistic investigator who contemplatively follows the paths into which his idle curiosity directs him. It is from such unplanned efforts that the fundamental advances in scholarship have always sprung. . . . Universities bear a heavy responsibility for fostering the creation of basic knowledge, and we can ill afford to have their staffs and facilities lured by financial inducements into the study of matters of immediacy."

4) The bulk of research funds from nonacademic sources are allotted to institutions with strongly developed research activities and with outstanding scientists who have well-established reputations. This makes it more difficult for other schools to meet competition for staff, students, and financial aid, and more difficult for younger, less known scientists, "who are actually more apt to come forward with original ideas," to obtain sponsors.

Need for Subsidy Recognized

The Union's statement points out that institutions of higher learning already have surrendered a degree of independence by accepting the terms of certain grants, and that these terms, in turn, affect teachers, study, and administration. However, the report recognizes the importance of research subsidy. "Our colleges and universities are irrevocably dependent on the support they have been receiving in the form of sponsorship of research, and indeed this support must continue to increase rapidly in the years ahead." But the dangers of control through subsidy are imminent, the report contends.

"It must be clearly recognized that if outside financing of university research and graduate education, particularly in the natural sciences, continues to follow present patterns, it will inevitably lead to a very serious erosion of university control of university activities. We should face squarely the question as to whether we are prepared to break with the long-established tradition which entrusts to universities a large measure of autonomy in their proper functions of education and research—whether we are prepared to replace a significant fraction of this autonomy by a patchwork control exerted by a variety of bureaus with widely differing aims and interests."

The ACLU report appears in full in the current issue of the American Association of University Professors' *Bulletin*, where it is reprinted not as a statement of policy but rather to call attention to the important problems raised, with the suggestion that large-scale foundation support be given to a study of the situation.

Kitt Peak National Observatory To Be Dedicated Next Week

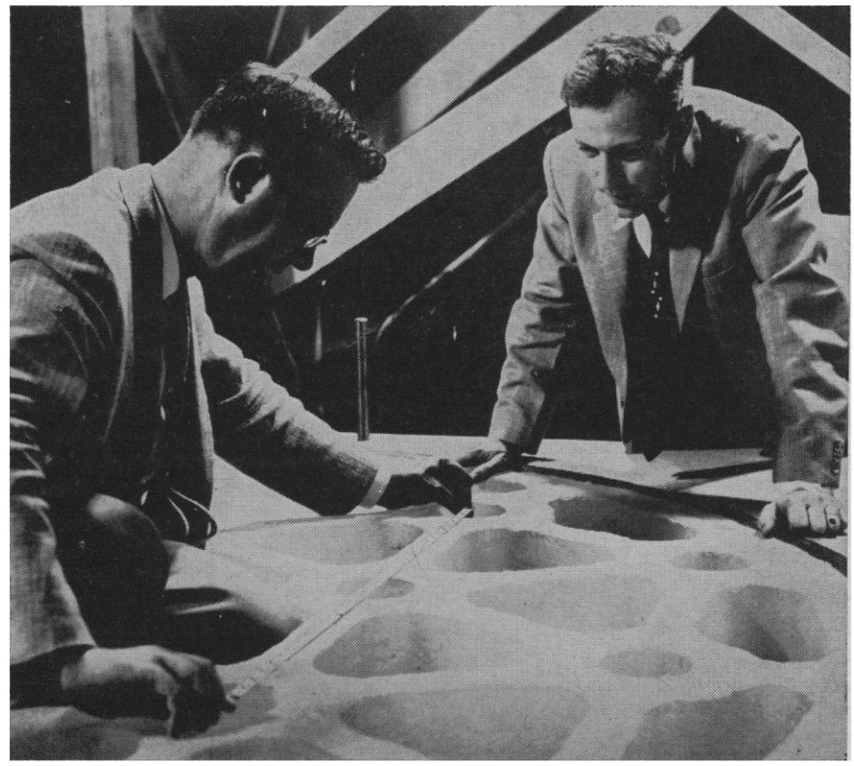
The Kitt Peak National Observatory near Tucson, Ariz., will be dedicated on 15 March, according to Alan T. Waterman, director of the National Science Foundation, which supports the new installation. The dedication will mark the opening of an optical observatory that will be available to all qualified United States astronomers. It is the equivalent for optical astronomy of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, W. Va., the other national observatory maintained by the National Science Foundation.

Dedication

Prominent scientists and officials of the federal, state, and local governments and representatives of the Papago Indian Tribe, on whose reservation the observatory is located, will take part in the dedication ceremony. Participants will include the National Science Board as well as the Board of the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., which operates the observatory for NSF. Member universities of AURA now include California, Chicago, Harvard, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio State, Princeton, Wisconsin, and Yale.

The dedicatory address will be delivered by W. W. Morgan of Yerkes Observatory. Waterman, Kitt Peak director Aden P. Meinel, R. R. McMath of AURA, and other guests will also give brief addresses. C. D. Shane of Lick Observatory and president of AURA will preside.

The appointment of Meinel as director of the observatory was announced by NSF in January 1958. He was formerly with the department of astro-



A. B. Meinel (left), director of the Kitt Peak National Observatory, and Arthur Code, of the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., inspect the 84-inch telescope mirror blank cast by Corning Glass Works for the observatory.

physics of the University of Chicago and was an associate director of the Yerkes and McDonald observatories.

Facilities

The first major telescope to go into operation at Kitt Peak will be the 36-inch reflector that has just been installed. Not large by modern standards, it is nevertheless of advanced design, for use primarily as a photoelectric instrument for measuring star brightness. It will be the forerunner of an 84-inch reflector to be completed in 1961 or 1962.

The mirror blank for the 84-inch reflector has recently been delivered to the observatory from Corning Glass Works, Corning, N.Y. The final grinding and polishing are being done by the observatory staff.

Design of a large orbital (satellite) telescope is perhaps the most dramatic project now under way at the observatory. Unlike the specialized, smaller orbital telescopes now being planned by other observatories, this is to be an instrument of high resolving power, to be turned into position on command from earth and to communicate its observations back to earth. An instrument of 50-inch aperture is at present under consideration.

Construction of the orbital telescope is a long-range project, and it is expected that such a large, fully controllable instrument will not be put in orbit for several years. The project was placed under the direction of the Kitt Peak National Observatory both because the size of the effort would probably exceed the capacity of a single university and because it is planned that, once such a telescope is in orbit, it will be a part of the observatory's regular instrumentation and will be available, as are the observatory's other telescopes, to all qualified U.S. astronomers.

The National Science Foundation and the observatory are cooperating with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at all stages of planning and design of the instrument. Close coordination with NASA's program of astronomy in space is being maintained.

Also being planned is a new solar telescope that will be the world's largest. This instrument will have a parabolic mirror 60 inches in diameter with a focal length of 300 feet, which will produce a solar image several times larger and more brightly illuminated than that attainable by any other ground-based solar instrument.

Oceanographers Will Study Little-Known Swan Islands

This month the Coast and Geodetic Survey's oceanographic research ship *Explorer* will visit one of America's smallest and least-known possessions, the Swan Islands, for a series of studies. The Swan Islands are two tiny strips of land in the Caribbean Sea, 97 miles northeast of Honduras. Thickly wooded Great Swan is about 2 miles long and ½ mile wide. Rocky, inaccessible Little Swan is 1½ miles long and ½ mile wide. Only the larger island is populated.

Oceanographers are particularly interested in the Swans because they lie near the precipitous depths of the Cayman Trough. Coast and Geodetic divers will explore the shelf and sea surrounding the islands. Photographs of animal and plant life will be made, sea water will be chemically tested, and samples of bottom sediment will be taken.

Other Projects Planned

Other projects will be carried out for various government agencies cooperating in the work. A geological survey is scheduled. Deep-sea creatures will be collected for the Fish and Wildlife Service. Specimens of island mammals, reptiles, and insects will be gathered for the Smithsonian Institution. (Some of the animals may go to the National Zoological Park for exhibit.)

Wildlife on the Swans was described by a British archeologist-zoologist who visited the islands in 1938. On Little Swan he saw innumerable booby gannets, so tame they pecked fearlessly at his legs. He also observed frigate birds, many iguanas, and the hutia—the strange, rabbit-sized rodent that nests in jagged rock fissures under prickly bushes. Of the insects, the ants were the worst pests, the Englishman wrote. He suffered some 300 bites that itched for weeks.

Census To Be Taken

Besides its scientific work, the current expedition will take a 1960 census of the Swans for the United States Census Bureau. The 1950 count was made by a member of the Civil Aeronautics Administration on duty there. At the time, 36 persons—mostly men but including a few women and children—were living on Great Swan. Twelve of these had been born in the United States. The others were from other Caribbean islands and from Central America.

The United States acquired sovereignty over the Swans in 1863. Since 1857, when American firms first collected guano for export under the 1856 Guano Act, American interests and personnel manning navigation and communication outposts have continuously used and accupied the islands.

The U.S. Weather Bureau now maintains a meteorological station on Great Swan; the Civil Aeronautics Administration maintains an airways beacon.

President Names New Member of the Atomic Energy Commission

Robert E. Wilson, chemical engineer who retired in 1958 as chief executive officer and chairman of the board of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, has been named by President Eisenhower to be a member of the Atomic Energy Commission. He will fill the vacancy created in the five-man commission by the death last August of Harold S. Vance. Wilson has been nominated to serve the 4 months remaining in Vance's term and a 5-year term of his own.

The proposed new member has had considerable experience in the activities of the AEC, having served on the commission's general advisory committee since shortly after the commission was created in 1947. Hearings on the nomination by the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy are expected to be held soon.

With Republicans Wilson and chairman John A. McCone, the commission will have a political make-up of two Republicans, one Democrat (John S. Graham), and two independents (John F. Floberg and John H. Williams). The Atomic Energy Law sets no requirement for the political composition of the commission and, although the Joint Committee has a Democratic majority, appointments to the Atomic Energy Commission are traditionally apolitical. John McCone said recently: "The other commissioners and I are delighted that Dr. Wilson has accepted the President's nomination."

Markle Scholars Named

Twenty-five young medical scientists, all faculty members of medical schools in the United States and Canada, have been appointed Markle Scholars in Medical Science by the John and Mary