

compensation would be about \$8 a barrel for clean, marketable berries. James C. Hagerty, White House press secretary, added, according to the Associated Press, that the growers normally would have realized \$12 a barrel.

Some growers suffered losses last fall when the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, Arthur S. Flemming, warned the public that a part of the current cranberry crop was contaminated by aminotriazole, a weed killer. Flemming based his action on a statement in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act that says: "no additive shall be deemed safe if it is found to induce cancer when ingested by man or animal. . . ."

Aminotriazole is registered with the Department of Agriculture as an economic poison. If used in cranberry bogs within a few days after harvest, it will not be incorporated in the berries produced the following year. But it will be incorporated in the berries if it is used during the growing season.

The White House said that the present action "represents an effort to assure the wholesomeness of all cranberries offered to the public, restore consumer confidence in the product, and assist those cranberry producers who suffered an impairment of their market as a consequence of improper use, by a few growers, of the weed-killing chemical aminotriazole."

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare will undertake, in cooperation with the growers, a program of testing and certification, the White House said. No payments will be made on berries found to be contaminated.

Various alternative methods of assisting the cranberry growers have been explored. The indemnification procedure, which has been found to be legally appropriate by the Comptroller General, was chosen as the only satisfactory approach.

Details of the offer to make such payments will be issued shortly by the Department of Agriculture.

### Archeologists Plan Excavations in Aswan Dam Region

An emergency program to rescue archeological treasures from a man-made flood in Egypt and the Sudan was announced in March by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. The institute is planning a 5-

year program of exploration, excavation, and recording of antiquities in the region stretching from Aswan, in the United Arab Republic, to the third cataract of the Nile, in the Sudan. The region will be completely inundated over the next 5 years by a lake formed by the Aswan High Dam, on which construction was begun this year by the United Arab Republic. The waters will submerge a score of major temples and tombs and hundreds of other known but unexplored sites.

The Oriental Institute's current operations in the United Arab Republic are directed from Chicago House at Luxor, Egypt. Chicago House is the headquarters of the institute's epigraphic survey. Present action followed a recent appeal by the director-general of UNESCO, Vittorino Veronese, to save the monuments of the region to be flooded.

The Oriental Institute's program will be carried out under provisions contained in invitations issued by the United Arab Republic and the Sudanese Government. Excavators will be allowed to keep at least 50 percent of their finds, except for certain items which are unique or essential for completing national collections. (Ordinarily, excavators are not allowed to take antiquities from the country in which they are found.) Later, excavators will be permitted to work in certain areas heretofore closed to them.

Administration of the program has been placed in the hands of a committee of five scholars: Keith C. Seele (program director), Oriental Institute professor of Egyptology; Pierre Delougaz, Oriental Institute associate professor and curator of the Oriental Institute Museum; Richard C. Haines, Oriental Institute instructor and field director, Nippur Expedition; Thorkild Jacobsen, Oriental Institute professor; and John A. Wilson, Andrew MacLeish Distinguished Service Professor at the Oriental Institute and the only American member of UNESCO's consultative committee of experts in the international campaign to save the monuments.

### News Briefs

**In memoriam.** Establishment of a Durand fellowship in aeronautical engineering, in memory of one of aviation's greatest scientific pioneers, has been announced by Joseph M. Pettit, dean of the Stanford University School of Engi-

neering. The late William Frederick Durand, who started aeronautical engineering study at Stanford early in this century, died in 1958 at the age of 99. Initial support for the fellowship came from Durand himself, for he left a legacy of \$20,000 to assist "worthy Stanford students in aeronautical engineering." Gifts from Durand's admirers, students, and colleagues are expected to increase the fund in coming years.

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**Medical-school research costs.** Operating expenditures for scientific research in medical schools in the United States have increased six times in 10 years, rising from \$17.1 million in 1948 to \$105.5 million in fiscal year 1958, according to the National Science Foundation. This is one of the major findings of a new NSF study of research in medical schools, published as *Funds for Research in Medical Schools 1957-58*, number 17 of the series *Reviews of Data on Research & Development*. Other reports covering colleges and universities in general, engineering schools, agricultural experiment stations, and federal contract research centers are in preparation. Copies of the medical-school study are available at 10 cents apiece from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

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**Prague nuclear conference.** The International Atomic Energy Agency has accepted the invitation of the Government of Czechoslovakia to arrange an international symposium, to be held in Prague, on chemical effects of nuclear transformations. The symposium will be held 24-27 October 1960; member governments and interested international organizations have been invited to nominate participants.

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**Economic botany.** The Society for Economic Botany will hold its first annual meeting at Purdue University, 21-22 May. Highlight of the meeting will be a symposium on integrated research in economic plants, with special emphasis on drug and essential-oil plants. There will also be two sessions for contributed papers on any aspect of economic botany. The new society endeavors to promote interdisciplinary exchange of information about all activities which pertain to the past, present, and future uses of plants by man. Applications for membership should be sent to Dr. Quentin Jones, New Crops Research Branch, Beltsville, Md.