000 grant from the Foundation for Voluntary Welfare. The foundation is a subsidiary of the William Volker Fund, which an AMA spokesman described as having a "conservative outlook." Wiggins is an unpaid consultant to the AMA's medical economics department.

The Rump Session: It Does What Is Absolutely Necessary, But Very Little More

The rump session, by all accounts, will be over by the time this appears. A House-Senate conference committee has cut the Senate's recommendations for medical research by $104 million, but the reduced appropriation is $105 million more than the House bill would have allowed and $160 million more than the Administration asked for. The school aid bill, about which there had been considerable optimism before the conventions, remained bottled up in the House Rules Committee. An attempt, after more than a year's delay, to compromise two widely differing bills on agricultural research was of interest mainly as an exercise in political maneuvering. In the areas of science and education, as elsewhere, the session did what was absolutely necessary, mainly clearing the remaining appropriation bills, and little more.

The Rules Committee

The House Rules committee dominated the last two weeks of the session. Six of its twelve members—two southern Democrats and all four Republican members—had entered into an informal arrangement to bar action on all controversial legislation. It takes a majority to move a piece of legislation out of the committee. The six allowed a minimum medical aid bill to go through, one far narrower than that advocated by either Kennedy or Nixon, indeed so narrow that it satisfied only those who would have preferred no bill at all. They let a minimum wage bill through after being assured by the House conferees that there would be no real compromise with the broad Senate bill. Kennedy and the Senate conferees were given the choice of taking the House bill or nothing. This was as far as the ruling six were prepared to go. The school aid bill and several other matters were buried.

In June, Nixon's office had let it be known that he was trying to get one of the four Republicans to change his vote on the school bill, but he had no success. There was hope that B. Carroll Reece of Tennessee might be persuaded. He had promised his constituents during the 1958 election that he would not vote to block the school bill, but apparently he felt he had fulfilled his promise when he reluctantly supplied the vote needed to let the measure through to the House floor. When the bill passed and was sent back to the Rules Committee for permission to go to conference, Reece rejoined the six to block any further action.

The action on the school bill demonstrated more than anything else the immense power of the Rules Committee. The bill was strongly backed by Nixon, Kennedy, the Democratic leadership in the House, and within the Administration had the active support of Secretary Flemming of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the passive support of the White House. A great deal of sympathy had been developed throughout the country, and the resulting pressure changed enough Republican votes to put the bill through the House despite the failure of attempts to pass similar bills in recent years. But the popular support had no effect on the Rules Committee.

Perhaps active pressure from the White House could have changed matters, but as in the past, it was not forthcoming. Whether Kennedy or Nixon could get the bill through next year is open to question. Most people think there will be a school bill next year. No one doubts that either Kennedy or Nixon would be much more willing than Eisenhower has been to use the powers of the White House to push for what he wants from Congress. Both seem thoroughly convinced of the need for federal aid to schools, while Eisenhower apparently has some doubts on the matter.

Presidential pressure, in fact, may not be necessary. Liberal Democrats took up a good deal of time in the closing days of the session denouncing what several of them called "this conspiracy." There has been talk about doing something about the Rules Committee for years. There were stirrings of revolt at the beginning of the present Congress, in 1959, but they resulted only in vague assurances that the committee would not use its powers to block legislation clearly supported by a majority of the House. The experience this year is not likely to encourage anyone to settle for assurances next January. Howard Smith of Virginia, chairman of the Rules Committee, has been saying that he's heard thunder before and that it isn't always followed by a storm. The liberals have been guaranteeing that there will indeed be a storm next January. That the wind will blow no one doubts, but what the effect will be on Judge Smith will depend on the results of the election in November rather than the passion of the oratory this week.

Funds for Medical Research

The conference committee on the Labor-HEW appropriations bill followed the frequent practice of splitting the differences between House and Senate appropriation bills neatly down the middle. The major items to be dealt with were the funds for medical research through the National Institutes of Health. The Senate had voted $209 million more than the House; the final bill appropriated $105 million more than the House, a total of $560 million. The Administration had asked for $400 million.

The big increase raises the question of how much will actually be spent. As the fuss over defense appropriations demonstrated, the Administration doesn't have to spend extra money voted by Congress unless it chooses to do so. The procedure is for the agency involved to put in a justification to the Bureau of the Budget in order to use any money appropriated by Congress above the original Administration request. In the case of medical research funds, Congress has been regularly giving the Administration more than it has asked for and after some initial reluctance the Administration has ended up using nearly all of it.

This year the increase was especially big, but the new Administration coming in in January, the middle of the fiscal year, will probably be glad to use it all. Both Kennedy and Nixon say they are in favor of more money for medical research. There have been questions raised as to whether there are enough competent researchers available to make good use of all the money Congress has been voting. Officials at NIH have done some studies on this: examining the productiveness of marginal grants made possible by

the Congressional increases, and they say that the studies show that the money is being well used and there are still many worthwhile projects which could not be supported in past years even with the increased funds Congress had made available.

Agricultural Research

A curious effort was begun last week to work out a compromise between two widely different bills to promote more research on finding industrial uses for agricultural products. Once again this has been endorsed by both Kennedy and Nixon. It is talked of as a way to help solve the problem of farm surpluses. In fact, though, not many people see much hope in it, certainly not the Department of Agriculture, which says the nearly $15–20 million a year it is spending is all that can be usefully used because of the limited number of promising possibilities. Whether this is true or not, it is still a politically appealing idea for a candidate to point out that the amount of money we are spending to find new uses for farm products is trivial compared with the $6 billion a year the government spends on agriculture. Both candidates are making this argument.

In 1959 the Senate, goaded by Hubert Humphrey, who is one of the few people who really professes to see a solution to the farm problem, pushed through a bill to increase support of what is called "utilization research" by organizing a separate Bureau of Utilization Research within the Department of Agriculture. The House agricultural committee, in response, produced a bill backed by the Administration to set up a commission to study the possibilities of an increased program of utilization research. Such commissions are generally created when there is a great popular demand to do something about something you think nothing can or should be done about. Thus there was an enormous gap between the Humphrey Senate bill and the House bill. The conferees for more than a year never even bothered to hold a meeting since there was really no basis for compromise between a bill that was intended to push the Administration toward a big multi-million dollar program and a bill to set up a commission to study things. The House agriculture committee, backed by the Administration, said it had no intention of going for the Senate scheme and the Senate said the House bill wasn't worth passing.

Last week the conferees decided to get together after all. By the beginning of the week they were still holding to their widely separated positions, but still talking of some sort of agreement. But whether there is an agreement or not won't make much difference to anyone except to legislators running for re-election. The new president and the new Secretary of Agriculture will set up a bigger utilization research program, if they decide it is really worth while, and the existence or nonexistence of the study commission won't make much difference one way or the other. Neither, for that matter would the existence or nonexistence of the bureau for utilization research talked of in the Senate bill. Congress, through its control over the purse strings, can tell the President what he cannot do; but it cannot make him do what he chooses not to do.—H.M.

News Notes

Brode Resigns as State Department Science Adviser; Whitman Named Successor

Wallace R. Brode has resigned, effective 6 September, as science adviser to the Secretary of State, and Walter G. Whitman, formerly chairman of the department of chemical engineering of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been named his successor. Brode, who has a long record of government service with various scientific agencies, has served as science adviser since January 1958. He will be on retirement status under Civil Service.

The science program in the Department of State dates back to 1951, when a number of science attachés at posts abroad were first appointed. After the science adviser resigned in 1954 no replacement was appointed, and the program abroad lapsed until it was revived by Secretary of State Dulles in 1957. During his tenure as science adviser, Brode revitalized the entire science attaché program. Ten embassies abroad have been staffed with science attachés, many of whom cover a number of countries on a regional basis. The attachés facilitate scientific exchanges and interpret American science abroad. They also advise other members of the embassy staffs on matters involving scientific and technical factors.

On leaving government service, Brode stressed the value to the country of scientists and science-administrators who make their careers in the government, and the need for the government to work out long-term staffing policies for such scientists. He noted that tours of government duty by scientists from industry or the academic community are also important, but he added that it takes time to develop an understanding of governmental problems and procedures. In his own work in reactivating the science attaché program, Brode said, he had made a point of selecting, for at least some of the overseas posts, scientists who were making their careers in the government. Brode also expressed the hope that the present administration and the administration that takes office early next year will give continuing, nonpolitical support to the attaché program.

Whitman, who is succeeding Brode as science adviser, served with the National Advisory Commission for Aeronautics from 1940 to 1945; was the director of the Lexington Project of the AEC in 1948; and also served as conference secretary-general for the U.N. Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, in 1955. He also served as chairman of the Research and Development Board of the Department of Defense from 1951 to 1953 and was a member of the National Advisory Commission for Aeronautics during the same two years. He is on terminal leave from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mary E. Corning, special assistant to Brode, is leaving the State Department to go to the National Science Foundation, where she will be project director in the planning group of the associate director for education and international activities.

Live Poliovirus Vaccine Approved; Worldwide Trials Reported

Live poliomyelitis vaccine has been approved by the Public Health Service as suitable for use in the United States. The vaccine, which is taken by mouth, will go into commercial production by next spring, and large supplies are expected to be available in the fall of 1961.

The PHS will permit initial commercial production of only Sabin types of vaccine—types I, II, and III—developed by Albert B. Sabin of Cincinnati to protect against the three strains