

fore the House. The most effective fresh start, of course, would take the form of a Presidential address over television. But no announcement can be expected on this, if it is to happen, until a day or two before the event, not only because the President would not commit himself to using this last resort unless it had become clear that nothing else would do, but because in any case it would be bad tactics to telegraph the punch by announcing it prematurely.

National Defense Education Act

Meanwhile, although the NDEA extension has been getting attention mostly because of the effort to attach an amendment for private school loans, the bill, of course, is an important one in its own right.

The Administration draft, except for the addition of the special loan program for private schools, is likely to be reported out of the House and Senate committees substantially unchanged. It will put NDEA on a permanent basis, with a yearly appropriation limit of about double the \$250 million that is now being spent. The present act provides support for secondary school teaching in mathematics, science, and foreign languages, as well as the better-known programs of loans for college students and fellowships for graduate students. Kennedy asked that English and physical fitness be added to the secondary school subject areas, with the provision that money for physical fitness could not be spent on a facility for holding athletics contests to which admission would be charged. It appeared that English would be added, but there was substantial opposition to the physical fitness program.

Another fellowship program, this time the engineering and science fellowships set up in the National Science Foundation Act, was also in the news.

The Yellin case, described in the editorial at the front of this issue, brought a Congressional demand for changes in the National Science Foundation Act to prevent the award of a grant to a student of questionable loyalty. A bill produced by Overton Brooks, chairman of the House Science and Astronautics Committee, writes into the law the interpretation of "ability" which the Foundation used as part of the basis for rescinding Yellin's grant. In effect, it provides that intellectual competence will not be the sole criterion for deciding who will get a

fellowship, but that in assessing a student's ability the Foundation should also consider the student's motivation and his loyalty to democratic principles. The bill appeared extremely likely to pass.

The question of communism also got into the discussion of the NDEA, but in a way which aroused nothing like the fuss the Yellin case provoked.

Senator Goldwater called a press conference to announce that he would offer an amendment to add to the bill support for studies concerned with the threat of communism. Goldwater criticized the Administration for trying to add support for English and physical fitness at the same time it was trying to delete the provision requiring a non-communist affidavit from applicants for the student loans provided in the act. "It is difficult for me to see," Goldwater said, "how any intelligent person can genuinely believe that improving and expanding educational courses in English and physical fitness is more essential to the national defense than a provision designed to protect the American taxpayer against having his tax money used to benefit the enemies of the Nation."

Goldwater said he was opposed to the bill, as he was opposed to all federal aid to education, but that since it was certain to pass anyway he would vote for it himself if the threat of communism was added to the subject areas to be supported. But there was not much likelihood that the amendment would pass, for the way in which one defines the precise nature of the communist threat implies in large measure what should be done to meet the threat. The result is that it would be extremely difficult to design a course in the threat of communism that would not strike some substantial group as a gross, and perhaps treasonable, misuse of public money.

Satellite Communications

At the beginning of the week the White House took its first formal notice of the imminent need to lay out a policy for the development of a worldwide satellite communications system. It made public a letter from the President to Vice President Johnson requesting Johnson, in his role as chairman of the Federal Space Council, to "make the necessary studies and Government-wide policy recommendations

for bringing into optimum use at the earliest practicable time operational communications satellites. The letter, dated 15 June, was made public last Sunday, the 25th.

Some of the policy problems this involves were reported here a few weeks ago (*Science*, 9 June). The economics of the situation was discussed in an article in *Science* (16 June) by William Mechling, of the Rand Corporation. The most politically touchy problem is the very basic one of the extent of federal financing and perhaps ownership that will be involved.

The President asked for recommendations of the "nature and diversity of ownership and operation" of the system. The President said that in making these recommendations "public-interest objectives should be given the highest priority." Nothing was said of any preference for private, rather than public, ownership. The release of the letter thus announced, in effect, that the new Administration feels no commitment to carry on the policy laid down in the closing days of the Eisenhower Administration that the satellite system should be developed by private industry.

Japanese Agreement

The Prime Minister of Japan, Hayato Ikeda, was in Washington last week, and his visit, primarily concerned with trade and tariff matters, provided the occasion for announcing what the State Department hopes will be the most elaborate cultural and scientific agreement we have set up with any country. Earlier in the month the Department negotiated a settlement of the debts Japan owed the U.S. for occupation costs after the war. The bulk of the \$490 million settlement has been set aside for aid to underdeveloped Asian countries, but \$25 million will be used to finance a program of cultural and scientific cooperation. The announcement last week simply made public the decision to set up binational committees, which will work out the details of the program. But the program the Department has in mind will involve financing joint projects to be worked on by Japanese and American scholars and scientists, thus going beyond the usual exchange of visits associated with such agreements. If the program works well it will presumably be used as a pattern for similar arrangements with other nations.—H.M.