

the Administration regards as essential for successful development programs in underdeveloped nations.

The assumption of a moral obligation upon the committee was voiced by Sen. Fulbright, among others. Having led the President's unsuccessful fight for long-term Treasury financing of foreign aid, which would have eliminated the need to run the Appropriations Committee gauntlet, Fulbright said the compromise of a 5-year authorization and annual appropriations was acceptable. The White House termed it "wholly satisfactory," and suggested that the 5-year authorization carried with it assurances that the money would be available.

House Appropriations, however, has made it clear that it remains the judge of its moral obligations.

School's Out

Once again last week, the Administration's public school program was reported to have been killed. Such reports have been appearing regularly all summer long, but the latest was quite accurate: the school bill is now really dead. The blow came when an attempt was made to bring up an emasculated version of the President's recommendation, using the peculiar "Calendar Wednesday" procedure to bypass the Rules Committee. The effort to consider the bill under the Calendar Wednesday procedure failed, indeed failed miserably to muster the necessary majority. The vote was 242 to 169 against consideration, despite the modest nature of the bill, which asked only for a classroom construction program not much different from that contained in a bill passed by the House last year; it included no money for teachers' salaries.

The vote came early in the afternoon on the day of Kennedy's press conference last week. At the conference Kennedy, in effect, conceded defeat by answering a question about the vote by promising that the Administration would try again next year. There was still some hope that a version of the Administration's program for higher education would get through the House, but whether it does or not can only decide how complete the Administration's defeat on education will be. Nothing that is at all likely to emerge now can add up to more than a shadow of the fairly ambitious program Kennedy had recommended.

Announcements

A "bureau of standards" for **heart disease control tests** has been introduced at the U.S. Public Health Service's Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Ga., which will provide a central depot of preserved samples of human serum previously analyzed for their cholesterol content. These will be supplied to laboratories across the country, to be used as a standard against which the laboratory can check its own procedure. Heretofore, because of differences in cholesterol-measurement standards, analyses of the same blood sample by different laboratories (and sometimes even by the same lab) often produced varied results. Pooling of data from different studies was also made difficult by this variance. Anticoagulants and clot-dissolving agents are due for standardization efforts in the near future.

The United States has invited **weather scientists** from more than 100 countries, including Russia, to attend the International Meteorological Satellite Workshop to be held in Washington, D.C., from 13 to 22 November. The U.S. Weather Bureau and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration have sent invitations to all countries belonging to the World Meteorological Organization.

Information about **rare forms of mental retardation** is available through the Rare Case Registry maintained by the Southern Regional Education Board. The service, available to research personnel employed in academic or clinical facilities anywhere in the 15 Southern states, will supply researchers with a list of institutions which have cases of the type requested, and with the names of officials to be contacted. Requests, to be submitted by letter, should include place of employment and a specific description of the kind and number of cases needed. (Rare Case Registry, Southern Regional Education Board, 130 6th St., NW, Atlanta 13, Ga.)

A **Soviet study of rare-earth spectroscopy** has been translated and released by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. The two-volume monograph, published in 1953, is described by Russian scientists as the first systematized analysis of the experimental and theoretical

data in this field. (Office of Technical Services, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D.C. Order No. 61-31483. \$7)

Courses

A university **credit course on new trends in biology** will be featured on CBS's "College of the Air" TV series, beginning 25 September. The 32-week course, developed by CBS and the Learning Resources Institute of New York, in consultation with the American Institute of Biological Sciences, will be directed by Ray Koppelman of the University of Chicago. There will be five 25-minute lecture-demonstrations per week, the time of presentation to be determined by the individual station. More than 100 colleges and universities will give credit to those who fulfill the course requirements. [Thomas P. Robinson, Learning Resources Institute, 680 5th Ave., New York 19 (program administration); Ray Koppelman, Department of Biology, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. (course content)]

A 2-year graduate program in **radiologic physics** is being offered at the Stanford University School of Medicine. The program, open to students with a B.A. or a B.S. degree in physics, leads to an M.A. degree in the medical sciences, with specialization in medical or health radiological physics. A limited number of fellowships will be available to qualified students. A 1-year traineeship in medical radiological physics is also available. (Chairman, Department of Radiology, Stanford Medical Center, Palo Alto, Calif.)

Meeting Notes

Meteorologists in over 100 nations have been invited to attend the **International Meteorological Satellite Workshop** to be held in Washington, D.C., from 13 to 22 November. The workshop is being arranged by the U.S. Weather Bureau and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, with the cooperation of scientific and international groups. Participants will prepare weather analyses from satellite photographs to gain practical experience in the use of satellite data distributed by the U.S. through international meteorological channels.