

pect of the federal government blocking economic development.

The issue of economic effects was considerably befogged during the Senate hearings and debates by mining and timber interests which contended that the wilderness system would have a harmful effect on employment in the West. The fact, however, is that there is no lumbering at present on the lands involved, and only eight mining operations are under way, all of which would be permitted to continue. Cattlemen for a time showed some opposition to the bill, but their interest waned when it was stipulated that the relatively little grazing now permitted in wilderness areas would be allowed to continue.

With the rush under way to end the current session, the House is not expected to act on a similar bill this year. Its Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, however, is considering hearings sometime before the start of the next session.—D.S.G.

Overhead Allowance Unchanged

A Senate-House conference last week voted against raising the 15 percent overhead allowance in research grants and contracts awarded to universities by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The conference action settles the matter for the current session of Congress.

As in past years, the Senate Appropriations Committee recognized the pleas of university spokesmen and voted for 100-percent payment of overhead costs. However, the House Appropriations Committee has never been receptive to an upward revision of the allowance. A principal source of opposition has been Rep. John E. Fogarty, the Rhode Island Democrat who is chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee that passes on funds for HEW.

It is Fogarty's view that since the government provides 100 percent of the direct costs on HEW research grants and contracts, the recipients are not unfairly burdened by the requirement that they meet part of the indirect, or overhead, costs. Direct costs include salaries, equipment, and supplies, which are easily visible items in any project, while the indirect costs are in the less obvious, but still burdensome, categories of maintenance, depreciation, library services, and physical space in university buildings.

At hearings last April, Randall M.

Whaley, vice president for graduate studies and research at Wayne State University, told Fogarty's committee that some of Wayne State's departments were declining HEW grants and contracts because of the limitation on overhead cost payments. The committee was also told that the average of overhead costs at 50 small institutions was 42 percent of project costs, while at 10 larger ones it was 34 percent. And it was pointed out that a formula suggested by the Bureau of the Budget provides for overhead allowances considerably higher than 15 percent.

Fogarty, however, feels that the limitation cannot be a serious drawback in view of what he regards as general receptivity among universities to accept research funds from HEW.

The Administration came out in favor of the government meeting full overhead costs, but it did not convey to the conferees any sense of great concern about the problem. Its budget request of \$2 million for higher payments would provide an increase of less than 1 percent.

School Aid Maneuvering

Senate backers of the President's school aid program failed this week in an attempt to use fragments salvaged from the defeated Administration bill as a wedge for reopening the fight next year. Their efforts were directed at limiting renewal of aid to impacted areas to just 1 year, which would have assured the issue of federal aid a place on next year's congressional agenda.

The politically-popular impacted aid program, which the House renewed last week for 2 years, provides assistance for school districts whose enrollments are increased by federal activities. The ease with which it has been passed previously led the Administration to tie it into the omnibus education bill as a lure for votes, and when that bill met defeat, to propose that impacted aid should be restricted to 1 year to serve as a vehicle for renewing the fight next year. The need for such a vehicle was deemed especially important because of considerable sentiment, especially in the House, against reopening the school-aid battle in an election year. Despite a last-minute personal plea from President Kennedy, the Senate voted 45 to 40 for a 1-year renewal.

Announcements

A 5-year experimental program to determine the part cholesterol plays in heart disease will begin this fall in Boston, Baltimore, Chicago, Minneapolis, and Oakland (Calif.). The National Heart Institute will choose 250 males in each city to participate in 6- to 12-month pilot studies. The program is expected to involve as many as 400,000 Americans before its completion.

A technical review of the **nation's space-flight effort** will be presented from 9 to 15 October in New York. The meeting, sponsored by the American Rocket Society, will consist of sessions of technical papers outlining work in the rocket, missile, and space-flight fields; panel discussions on space vehicles, space missions, and the global aspects of space flight; an exhibition, open to the public; and evening programs (probably to be televised nationally) which will review the complete U.S. and U.S.S.R. space programs. (Roderick L. Hohl, American Rocket Society, 500 Fifth Ave., New York 36, N.Y.)

A list of 679 **paperbound science books**, recommended for high school students, college undergraduates, teachers, and the educated general public, is contained in the 5th annual edition of *An Inexpensive Science Library*. The new edition consists of a selected list of books recommended in former editions, older books overlooked in previous editions, and newer books available in the United States up to 31 July 1961. The catalog, published by the AAAS's Science Library Program administered under a grant from the National Science Foundation, also contains title and author indexes, names and addresses of publishers, and a list of dealers in paperbound books. (AAAS Publications, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C. \$0.25)

An article on the **ecology of space flight**, translated from a recent issue of the U.S.S.R.'s *Physiology Journal*, complains that Western scientists have given little attention "to the interrelationships of the [astronaut's] basic nervous processes." Citing the results of U.S. isolation tests, the article concludes that the U.S. experiments suppress "social reflexes" and the astronaut's "awareness of danger" and fail to make