Hanford Generator, Compromise Size, Still Not Acceptable to House

The proposed Hanford, Washington, power generator was legislatively put to death last week. Its epitaph was a House debate marked by absurdities.

The generator was to have drawn steam from the cooling system of a new reactor now under construction at the plutonium production facility. The original proposal, which won Senate approval, was for a $95-million twin-generator plant. As a compromise designed to placate a coalition of private power and coal interests in the House, the project was reduced to a single generator, with an authorization of $58 million. This version was killed by the House, 251 to 155.

The House opposition based its case on the contention that the generator plan was a scheme to put the Atomic Energy Commission into the public power business, and that if one generator won approval this session public power advocates would be back next session arguing for the second.

Contributing to the *coup de grâce* was Rep. Craig Hosmer, a Republican who represents part of Los Angeles County. For Hosmer, the issue was not to be decided on the grounds of whether a vast amount of steam power was to be used or wasted. Addressing himself to the argument that the power would be used at the Hanford facility and would pay for the generator in approximately 9 years, Hosmer declared: "If we are at war, Hanford will be one of the prime enemy targets and the $58 million investment will stand a great chance of being blown to atoms. If we are at peace, it will undoubtedly be because agreements have been made between the United States and the Soviet Union and the other great powers with respect to the reduction or elimination of nuclear weapons and therefore we will not be producing plutonium at Hanford; and therefore there will be no steam to run this plant; and therefore," concluded Hosmer, "the $58 million could not be recovered."

The House bill, with Hanford deleted, was reluctantly accepted by the Senate. Included in it is an authorization of $114 million for an electron accelerator at Stanford University. Democratic backers of Hanford at one time considered using the Stanford project as a lever in behalf of Hanford, but dropped the scheme when they failed to enlist significant support in the Senate.

Announcements

An unmanned, battery-powered **underwater research vehicle** recently completed its first data-gathering voyage. The torpedo-shaped craft, developed by the University of Washington's Applied Physics Laboratory, made a series of runs at varying depths down to 8000 feet. Launched from a Navy tug, the vehicle is placed in operation by an acoustical signal from the mother ship. The depth and direction of travel are preset but can be changed by signal after launching. The 1040-pound vehicle, carrying 200 pounds of instruments and recorders, can cruise at 6 knots for about 8 hours and can withstand pressures up to 6000 pounds per square inch down to 12,000-foot depths; it surfaces when the motor is stopped.

Two major **U.S. nuclear exhibits** will open next month as a part of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's Atoms-for-Peace program. The exhibits—in Lima, Peru, and in Beirut, Lebanon—will be presented by the AEC with the cooperation of the governments and leading scientists of the host countries. The displays are designed to serve as a working laboratory for scientists and engineers and as a training school for science students, and "to explain to the general public the many ways in which the atom can be put to work for the benefit of mankind."

A **glaciological research station,** described as the first of its kind in the world, has been established by Stockholm University at Tarfala, Sweden. Initial studies at the station will be concentrated on behavior patterns of glaciers in the current period of climatic change, in an effort to obtain new facts on the dynamics of Pleistocene glaciation. Other projects will include drilling a 150-meter tunnel along the base of a glacier to study internal movements of the ice cover, sedimentation and moraine formation, and transport. The station, available to both Swedish and international research workers, will also be used for instruction purposes.

A "developmental council" has been established to represent the interests of the **developmental biologists** of the United States. The current purposes of the council include coordinating joint meetings and advising government agencies and panels upon request. The council consists of three members, one each from the Society for the Study of Development and Growth, the American Society of Zoologists, and the Botanical Society of America.

Scientists in the News

Charles B. Hitchcock, director of the American Geographical Society, was presented with an Outstanding Achievement award at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers. **Edward B. Espenshade**, of Northwestern University; **F. Kenneth Hare**, of McGill University; and **William L. Thomas, Jr.**, of the University of California (Riverside), were cited for "meritorious contributions to geography."

Richard E. Neustadt, professor of political science at Columbia University and a consultant to Presidents Truman and Kennedy, has received the 1961 Woodrow Wilson Foundation award from the American Political Science Association.

J. E. Wallace Wallin, clinical psychologist who retired in 1947 as state director of special education and mental hygiene in Delaware, has been appointed executive director of Industries Limited, Carlisle, Pa.

Robert B. Livingston has relinquished his administrative duties as director of basic research at the National Institute of Mental Health in order to return to research, as chief of the institute's newly established Laboratory of Neurobiology.

Edwin C. Hutter, John A. Inslee, and **Thomas H. Moore**, physicists in the Radio Corporation of America's Astro-Electronic Division, will receive the Journal award of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers.

M. Earl Heard, vice president in charge of research for West Point Manufacturing Company, West Point, Ga., has been named adviser on cotton utilization research to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Southern Utilization Research and Development Division.