pressure for raises for the numerous and well-organized postal workers is far stronger than that for scientific and professional employees.

For several years there has been a good deal of talk of the need for the government to pay higher salaries to its key employees, but politically it is very difficult to get a bill through Congress, and no real effort for a general revision of the upper pay scales has ever been made. Attempting to raise the pay scales for the top grades of federal employees runs into both the distaste of many Congressmen to authorize salaries as high as their own ($22,500 a year), and the difficulty, close to a political impossibility, of giving raises to well-paid employees without giving substantial raises to the lower grades. Such a general raise would cost a great deal of money, probably more than Congress would approve even if the Administration recommended it. Behind these difficulties is the tendency among many Congressmen to assume that it would be virtually immoral to pay a man as good a salary for spending the taxpayers' money as he would be paid to work in a private corporation to help produce the national wealth from which the taxes are derived.

Ultrahigh-Frequency Television

The Federal Communications Commission began operating an experimental ultrahigh frequency television station in New York this week. Because of the high buildings, New York is considered the most difficult place in the nation for a UHF station to operate effectively. The commission hopes to show that even under these adverse conditions UHF can provide service as good as that provided by the very-high frequency band. The 12 VHF channels are now almost fully used; the 69 UHF channels are for the most part unused. Large-scale development of educational and public-service television depends heavily on winning wider acceptance for UHF, and so opening up the spectrum of unused channels. In this connection, FCC chairman Newton Minow appealed to organizations interested in educational TV to organize a campaign in support of an FCC proposal to require manufacturers to equip all sets for UHF as well as VHF reception. The proposal got nowhere in Congress last session.

Announcements

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has established a citizens **advisory committee to the Food and Drug Administration**. The 16-member committee, headed by political scientist George Y. Harvey, of the University of Missouri, will evaluate the amount and type of protection the FDA should furnish consumers for foods, drugs, therapeutic devices, cosmetics, and household chemical products; and the adequacy of present resources and changes needed to provide this protection.

A continuous **air-pollution monitoring program**, established by the U.S. Public Health Service, is being developed in eight cities—Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. Special air-monitoring equipment, built by the PHS at a cost of $300,000, will automatically measure and analyze levels of sulfur dioxide, nitric oxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, and total hydrocarbons and oxidants. The new stations, operated by specially trained employees of the participating cities, will also provide information on particulate pollutant concentrations, pollutants washed out of the atmosphere by rainfall, and measurements of local wind turbulence.

A **national rehabilitation research-training center** has been established at New York University by the U.S. Public Health Service. A $390,000 installment has been granted by the PHS Office of Vocational Rehabilitation to cover the current academic year. In the future the office will supply an annual grant of $500,000 to the university's Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Copies of reports presented at the conference on curricula for **undergraduate majors in physics** (Denver, 13 Aug.–2 Sept.) have been made available. (Byron E. Cohn, University of Denver, Denver 10, Colo.)

Researchers with experience in **seawater supply systems** are invited to submit papers for possible inclusion in a forthcoming publication sponsored by the Sandy Hook Marine Laboratory. Contributors should describe their experiences in solving problems of design and operation of experimental marine aquaria, rather than give comprehensive accounts of complete systems. Deadline: *10 January 1962*. (John Clark, Sandy Hook Marine Laboratory, P.O. Box 428, Highlands, N.J.)

The first in a series of three 90-minute programs on **man's scientific frontiers in the space age** will be presented on NBC-TV on 24 November at 9 P.M. (EST). The biography of a hypothetical manned orbital flight, "Crossing the Threshold," will be based on material gathered from previous test or manned projectile flights. The program will emphasize the human side of the flight and its effect on participants, rather than the purely technical aspects.

The second program in the series, "At the Threshold," will examine the cost, feasibility, and timetable of America's space projects, including exploration of the moon.

A third program, "Other Thresholds," will explore and compare some additional scientific plans, objectives, and accomplishments in the United States.

Translation of three Soviet **journals** (*Problems of Hematology and Blood Transfusion; Journal of Microbiology, Epidemiology, and Immunobiology*; and *Problems of Virology*) has been discontinued by the National Library of Medicine's Scientific Translation Program. Commercial editions of these journals will be published independently by Pergamon Press, Headington Hill Hall, Oxford, England; and Royer and Roger, 1000 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C.

Courses

The University of Wisconsin's **Engineering Refresher Institutes** will hold 2-day courses in civil engineering (9–10 Nov.), mechanical engineering (7–8 Dec.), and electrical engineering (11–12 Jan. 1962). The entire refresher series will be repeated in Milwaukee during the 1962 February to June semester. Initial registration for each course is $25; any additional 2-day course in the series is $15. (Cass F. Hurc, Engineering Refresher Institutes, University of Wisconsin, Madison)