

Tennessee that the legislature has no reasonable basis for refusing to reapportion, only a desire to keep a grossly disproportionate share of political power in the hands of the people who already hold it. If it refuses Baker's appeal, it will be dealing a hard blow to the efforts to find a remedy for what nearly everyone, even those who think the court should not intervene, feels is an increasingly unfair and unhealthy situation, and one that seems most unlikely to yield to any less awkward solution than court intervention.

The case has now been argued twice before the Supreme Court. It came up last spring, but the court came to no decision, and instead ordered another 3 hours of oral argument on the opening day of this year's session. Nothing much new came up in the re-argument, and it is supposed that the court ordered the re-argument primarily to give itself more time to consider the decision. So the justices have now had over 6 months to consider their decision, and it is a measure of the difficulty of the case that lawyers feel it is quite appropriate that the court should mull over the problem awhile.

When the decision comes, it will be based on a balancing of practical consequences, rather than a balancing of the fine points of the law. The suspicion here is that the court is going to intervene.—H.M.

Cooperation in Space: Soviet Scientists and Politicians Appear To Have Different Views

Western scientists have generally noted that their Soviet counterparts eagerly welcome East-West scientific cooperation. One of the areas, however, where virtually none has taken place is in the exploration and use of space. Last week there were indications that the exclusion of space from East-West cooperation is the subject of conflict between some Soviet scientists and their political chiefs.

The indications showed up in the chronology of events between acceptance and last-minute rejection of an American invitation for the Soviet Union to join in a first step toward international cooperation in satellite weather forecasting. The acceptance was the first departure from the U.S.S.R.'s rigid policy of rejecting U.S. attempts to de-

velop cooperative space efforts. As such, it stirred considerable interest in the Administration, which, from its first days, has been seeking to interest the Soviets in joint space undertakings.

The first positive response to these U.S. efforts was the Soviet acceptance of an invitation to participate in the International Meteorological Satellite Workshop. This conference, sponsored by the U.S. Weather Bureau and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, was held in Washington from 13 to 22 November. Its purpose was to familiarize other nations with the weather forecasting techniques derived from the American Tiros satellite system.

An invitation to the conference was extended in August to Andrei A. Zolotukhin, director of the main administration of the Soviet Hydro-Meteorological Service, by his American counterpart, Francis W. Reichelderfer, head of the Weather Bureau. On 20 October the Soviet official cabled that the meeting would be attended by two Soviet representatives, Victor A. Bugayev, director of the Central Forecasting Institute, and Sergey N. Losyakov, of the State Committee on Radio Electronics. The Soviet government applied for visas, and they were promptly issued.

The Polish Academy of Sciences responded, in a letter dated 31 August, that it would probably send representatives; the Czech Academy of Sciences cabled an acceptance on 7 November, less than a week before the conference opened. Neither the Czechs nor the Poles, however, applied for visas, and they showed no further interest in the conference.

There was no further communication from the Soviets until the day after the opening of the conference, when Reichelderfer was notified in a cable from Zolotukhin, "our representatives unable to attend. . . ." The cable requested "relevant papers if possible," but offered no explanation of the last-minute rejection of the invitation.

The incident is a provocative one for Kremlinologists seeking to divine the relationship between Soviet scientific and political circles. Barring bureaucratic muddle as an explanation—perhaps excluded too frequently in seeking explanations of mysterious occurrences in the Soviet Union—the incident conforms to Western observations that Soviet scientists and politicians appear to be at odds on the benefits to

be derived from an East-West swap of space technology.

It has been reported that in private talks Soviet scientists have revealed an interest in cooperating in the establishment of a world-wide weather satellite system. On the political and propaganda fronts, however, the Soviet Union has remained rigidly aloof from joint space efforts and has denounced the weather satellite program as a screen for military reconnaissance. NASA and the Weather Bureau have strictly isolated their satellite efforts from the Air Force's Samos and Midas reconnaissance programs. But in the Soviet view of things, the oft-stated distinction between the United States' civilian and military programs is nothing but a transparent propaganda device. In denouncing the weather satellite program, the Soviets have made it plain that they regard it as nothing more than a successor to the U-2, which evokes in them memories of the most successful U.S. effort to get a look at their carefully guarded space establishment.

Although the most benign intentions have gone into the development of the Tiros weather satellite system, in design the satellite is a close cousin of the military reconnaissance satellites, and it merits no distinction in the view of Soviet military planners. These planners have made it clear that they see no Soviet purpose served by cooperation in the development of a device that can defy their efforts at secrecy.

The Weather Bureau says that it will respond to the Soviet request for the conference's scientific papers. In the existing Cold War chill, however, the traffic is likely to remain one way and limited, despite indications that some Soviet scientists do not share their leaders' views of who has most to gain from East-West cooperation in space.—D.S.G.

Educational Television: Setbacks in New York City and Boston

Adversity is no stranger to the promoters of educational television, but in recent weeks they have suffered two especially hard and unexpected blows.

The first occurred on 13 October, when fire destroyed the studios of WGBH-TV, the Boston educational station which had become a major link in a growing, nationwide educational network.

The second blow, delivered last week,