

easily visible hardware of defense, because the need for such hardware is readily comprehended and because, for economic and political reasons, these expenditures attract massive support. But it is a different matter when it comes to salaries that will permit the hiring and retention of men who can make the government a "sophisticated buyer"—the expression used in a recent report, *Government Contracting for Research and Development*, prepared for the President by the heads of the principal agencies engaged in research and development. The need for better salaries can easily be comprehended by anyone who is willing to listen, but the issue does not speak for itself, and the Administration has not chosen to give it the brass-band treatment in Congress.—D. S. GREENBERG

Congress Shrugs at Proposals On Laboratory Animal Welfare

Legislative proposals intended to promote the humane treatment of laboratory animals provide a lively topic for indignant letters to the editor, pro and con, and are the subject of a fairly heavy volume of congressional mail. But through the smoke and noise, one thing is apparent: Congress is not the least bit interested.

The reason is that research, particularly medical research, which uses the bulk of laboratory animals, has Congress's blessing; when congressmen make inquiries among their scientific acquaintances, the almost unanimous opinion is that the proposals would interfere with scientific research.

Two such proposals are now before Congress. The most extreme, offered by Representative Morgan M. Moulder (D.-Mo.), would establish an Agency for Laboratory Animal Control. The Agency would, among other things, be empowered to pass on the use of animals in all laboratories receiving federal funds. Its head would, in effect, become a czar setting the rules for most animal research uses.

A less extreme proposal has been offered by Senator Clark (D.-Pa.) in the Senate and Congresswoman Martha Griffiths (D.-Mich.) in the House. This bill provides for licensing experimenters and for inspection under the direction of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. Neither measure is likely to come to a hearing in this session.—D. S. G.

Announcements

The U.S. Office of Naval Research and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research have announced joint sponsorship of a **Research Center for Celestial Mechanics**, to be established at Yale University in July. Research at the \$90,000 facility will be directed toward new approaches for problems involving earth-circling satellites, lunar and interplanetary probes, and predetermination of trajectories for interplanetary vehicles. The center's initial staff, headed by Dirk Brouwer, director of the Yale Observatory, will consist of 8 to 10 postdoctoral fellows and graduate students. Future plans call for considerable expansion under continued Air Force and Navy support.

The first in a series of **regional primate centers** to be established by National Heart Institute grants was recently completed near Beaverton, Ore., about 10 miles west of Portland. The center will house approximately 800 rhesus monkeys to be used in study of processes in heredity, specialization and functional mechanisms of living cells, and organ systems. All essential laboratory facilities, technical equipment, libraries, and data processing equipment are situated on the 200-acre site. Through affiliation with the University of Oregon Medical School and other local academic institutions, the center also serves as a laboratory for graduate credit in the biological sciences.

Other primate research centers are planned for Washington, Wisconsin, and Georgia.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Sweden's Committee on Space Research have signed an agreement for a **cooperative space-research program** in connection with the planned launch of four Nike-Cajun sounding rockets from the Vidsel Range in Sweden. The main objective of the launch, scheduled for late this summer, will be to recover and analyze sample cloud particles to determine the composition and origin of noctilucent clouds—faintly luminous, very high clouds which occur only in certain regions of the auroral zone for a short period during the summer months.

The U.S. is to supply an appropriate launcher, the necessary telemetry equipment and ground antennas, rockets, and the four scientific payloads and

payload checkout equipment. Sweden will provide supplementary payload instrumentation to measure energetic particles, portions of the noctilucent sampling instrumentation, launching pad, a control center, and housing for telemetry equipment and for assembly and testing of rockets and payloads. Data analysis will be performed by scientists of both countries.

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission has approved the export of **fertilizer containing phosphorus-32** to the Research Institute for Irrigation and Rice Production in Szarvas, Hungary. The material, furnished by the Department of Agriculture, will be used in studies sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency to determine the best method of phosphate fertilizer placement in rice cultivation. Similar IAEA-sponsored studies are being undertaken in India, Austria, Pakistan, Burma, Thailand, United Arab Republic, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

A **Society for Tropical Medicine** has been established in Düsseldorf, Germany, to organize training of students from developing countries. The society, headed by Walter Kikuth, professor of tropical medicine and parasitology at Düsseldorf Medical Academy, will continue the tradition of the defunct German Society for Tropical Medicine, founded in 1907.

The U.S. Public Health Service's special **task force on syphilis control**, whose formation last year was prompted by the report of 19,000 cases of infectious syphilis in fiscal 1961, has outlined various control activities which, if continued unabated for at least 10 years, it believes could eliminate syphilis as a public health hazard in this country. The proposals include a national effort providing for at least two visits a year by a qualified health worker to the country's 100,000 general practitioners, and one visit per year to the remaining 130,000 physicians; establishment of a program to insure that all blood-processing laboratories report all positive specimens to health departments by name of patient; extension of current interview-investigation services to cover all infectious cases; development of a comprehensive education program for professional workers and the general public; continuation of research in syphilis immunology, therapy, and laboratory pro-