

business. The report is now in the unloving hands of the Bureau of the Budget and the new Office of Science and Technology, which, together, can be expected to subject it to major surgery. When the results become known, the furor will be renewed, amidst the usual suspicions that the Administration is up to no good.—D. S. Greenberg

### Notes: Science and Technology

#### Office; Tobacco Advisory Committee

The Office of Science and Technology came into being last week and, as was expected, Jerome B. Wiesner, the President's science adviser, was nominated to head it.

Wiesner will also retain his presidential advisory post, a position that will permit him to continue as a confidential adviser to the president, free from congressional scrutiny. In his capacity as head of the new office, however, he will be available to testify before Congress on various issues involving relations between science and government. The appointment is subject to confirmation by the Senate, which will most likely involve Wiesner's appearance at a committee hearing. A date for his appearance has not been set, nor has it been determined which Senate committee will conduct the hearing: The position of deputy director of the office remains to be filled. The office was proposed under an executive reorganization procedure which becomes effective within 60 days unless voted down by either house of Congress. The proposal encountered no opposition.

The appointment of an "expert advisory committee" to evaluate findings on the health hazards of tobacco was announced last week by Surgeon General Luther L. Terry. Terry said the committee would "make whatever recommendations may be appropriate." The membership of the committee has not yet been announced, but it is expected to comprise representatives of government and nongovernment research organizations, and of the tobacco industry.

The study apparently reflected a desire by the Administration to move the government off center on the tobacco issue, without delivering too severe a jolt to the tobacco industry. At his news conference, Kennedy said the study would "take some months or go into 1963."—D.S.G.

## Announcements

An **Institute for Theoretical Physics** has been established at Aspen, Colo., to promote "individual research and informal interchange of ideas." Administered by the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, the facility consists of ten two-man offices, a reading room, and a seminar room; experimentalists should attend during periods when they do not need equipment.

Individual participants provide their own salary by bringing their contract or fellowship with them. Housing accommodations, available at a reduced rate, will be arranged by the Aspen Institute. The 1962 sessions, which began this month, will run until 15 September. (Aspen Institute of Theoretical Physics, Aspen, Colo.)

A recent report from the Soviet news agency, Tass, lists a total of 404,000 **scientists** currently in the U.S.S.R.—40 times as many as there were under Czarist rule.

The National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., will establish a **Scientific Balloon Flight Station** this summer at Palestine, Texas. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the \$400,000 station will provide improved climatological conditions and trajectories for recovery of scientific payloads, on a temporary, year-round basis. Emphasis will be placed on difficult flights whose successful execution will advance balloon technology.

The 183-acre site, remote from established air lanes, will contain an operations and laboratory building and a 6½-acre concrete launching area, designed to accommodate all launching techniques, payloads, and balloons for land-based flights. Operation of the station will be administered by the NCAR Balloon Development Group, headed by Vincent E. Lally. Housekeeping and flight services will be supplied by private balloon contractors under NCAR supervision.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has announced plans to establish a **Scientific and Technical Information Facility** in Bethesda, Md., for the control and dissemination of data relating to aerospace technology. The \$1.2 million center, the first of its kind and size to be completely com-

puter-oriented, will process the data on magnetic tape and distribute sets to each of the nine NASA centers throughout the country within 15 days of receipt of report. The facility will also issue indexed semimonthly abstract journals, and translations of all available U.S.S.R. and other world-wide technical aerospace reports. Scheduled to be in full operation this year, the center will be managed by Documentation Incorporated, Bethesda, Md., under the technical direction of NASA's Office of Scientific and Technical Information.

### Courses

Advanced graduate or postdoctorate college teachers are eligible to attend a 6-week summer institute in **marine microbiology**, including unicellular algae, fungi, bacteria, yeasts, and viruses. The institute, supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, is intended to acquaint scientists in other fields with the relation of marine microbiology to chemistry, oceanography, geology, and biology. Twelve grants are available to selected candidates. (Carl Oppenheimer, Institute of Marine Science, University of Miami, 1 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami 49, Fla.)

A series of 1- to 4-week laboratory refresher-training courses in **communicable diseases**, including diagnostic, serologic, and typing methods, will begin on 10 September in Atlanta, Ga. Individual closing dates are approximately 1½ months prior to scheduled commencement of each course. (Laboratory Branch, Communicable Disease Center, U.S. Public Health Service, Atlanta 22, Ga.)

### Meeting Notes

A **conference on low-level winds**, co-sponsored by the American Meteorological Society and the U.S. Army Signal Missile Support Agency, will be held from 7 to 9 August at El Paso and Dallas, Texas. The El Paso program (7-8 Aug.) will cover theoretical techniques for analyzing and applying meteorological tower data, data acquisition and handling techniques, and sensor capabilities; and will include visits to White Sands Missile Range meteorological tower and wind tunnel facilities. On 9 August the University of Texas