

New Editor Appointed

The AAAS Board of Directors have announced the appointment of Philip H. Abelson as editor of *Science*. He will succeed Graham DuShane, whose resignation to accept appointment as professor and chairman of the department of biology and dean of graduate sciences at Vanderbilt University was announced in April.

Dr. Abelson, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, received the doctorate in nuclear phys-

ics from the University of California in 1939 and in that year joined the staff of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. From 1941 to 1946 he was with the Naval Research Laboratory, returning to Carnegie at the end of World War II as chairman of the biophysics section in the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism. In 1953 he became director of the Geophysical Laboratory, a post that he will retain while serving as editor of *Science*.

His explanation, understandably, did not convince businessmen that he really likes them. They point out that if Eisenhower, for example, had acknowledged a similar remark about labor leaders or college professors, he could not dispel its effects simply by admitting the indiscretion and hoping it would be forgotten.

For its part the Administration can show that it has gone a long way toward earning the support of business by promoting measures that are distinctly in the interest of business, including tax revision and private ownership of the communications satellite program. But the forthright acknowledgment of the "S.O.B." remark, while it may some day rank with George Washington's cherry tree confession, has contributed enormously to the business animosity which is said to puzzle the President.

The reasoned discussion of economic problems proposed by Kennedy in his Yale commencement address may develop some day, but the immediate effect of his speech was to touch off a raucous debate of a thoroughly traditional variety. It was in that address that the President said: "The central domestic problems of our time . . . relate not to basic clashes of philosophy or ideology, but to ways and means of reaching common goals. . . ." He added: "Too often we hold fast to the clichés of our forebears. We enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought," and he then went on to suggest that the economic problems facing the country demand "technical answers—not political answers." In drawing to his conclusion, he expressed the hope "the debate of recent weeks [on the government's role in the econ-

omy], though up to now somewhat barren, may represent the start of a serious dialog of the kind which has led in Europe to such fruitful collaboration among all the elements of an economic society and to a decade of unrivaled economic progress."

The immediate response of some businessmen was to suggest that President Kennedy was equating his views with reason and theirs with mythology. Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia, the apostle of traditional fiscal policies who heads the Senate Finance Committee, declared that Kennedy was talking nonsense when he said that budgetary deficits are not necessarily evil. And former President Eisenhower, addressing a Republican fund-raising dinner in Washington, said only times of emergency could justify a deficit; Eisenhower made it clear that he did not think these were such times. He also tossed in the view that defense expenditures were excessive, but acknowledged that this heretical notion was a "personal belief" that would find "very little company in either party."

In addition to firing up those who felt they were labeled economic mythologists, Kennedy's speech elicited curiosity because of its downgrading of politics as the principal device for settling economic issues. The distinction between "technical" and "political" answers is easily blurred, for both words are often used without very much effort at precision, but the endorsement of a "technical" approach by John F. Kennedy, journeyman politician, inevitably stirred the suspicions of people who felt they might be on the short end of the Administration's "technical" solutions.

According to columnist Roscoe

Drummond, the President "is inclined to have second thoughts about his Yale speech." Drummond explains that Kennedy's doubts apply not to substance, but to "timing and terminology," which, if correct, would suggest that Kennedy realizes what he should have known all along: summer is not the time to initiate serious business in Washington.—D. S. GREENBERG

Civil Defense: Fallout Shelter Plan Cut Out by House Committee

The major feature of the Administration's civil defense program appears to be bound for a quiet burial on Capitol Hill.

Earlier this month the House Independent Offices Appropriations Subcommittee deleted a request to provide \$460 million for the proposed community fallout shelter program. The money was denied on a technicality—that the House Armed Services Committee had not yet authorized the program for which the money was sought. But the refusal to provide the money reflected widespread congressional indifference and hostility toward the Administration's shelter program. The Armed Services hearings have not been scheduled, nor has the chairman, Carl Vinson, Democrat of Georgia, made an announcement on when he proposes to take up the civil defense bill. The delay has an immediate impact, because the fiscal year for which the money was requested starts Sunday. If anything is salvaged from the money bill it is not likely to be available to the Administration until the fiscal year is several months old.

The action by the appropriations subcommittee does not withhold all funds from civil defense. Its effect extends only to the matching-fund program under which the government would pay 60 percent of the cost of constructing community shelters. The subcommittee made only minor cuts in a request for an additional \$230 million which would be used for civil defense planning, maintenance, and general operations, including the adaptation of existing structures for shelters. This latter fund came under earlier civil defense legislation and did not require a new authorization.

Administration Reaction

The surgery performed on the civil defense program has not produced any

visible signs of distress in the Administration. The action taken by the appropriations subcommittee was not unexpected, since the chairman, Albert Thomas, Democrat of Texas, is a well-established foe of civil defense who consistently slashed its funds throughout the Eisenhower administration.

With all signs indicating that Thomas was still opposed to an enlarged civil defense effort, the Kennedy Administration has not put forth a sizable effort in behalf of its program. In fact, it has been several months since any major administration figure has volunteered a statement in behalf of civil defense. This reticence has led to speculation that the Administration has changed its mind about undertaking a major fallout shelter construction program and is going to let Congress's natural inclinations dispose of the matter.

The origins of the program's present plight are numerous, but, basically, a lot of members of Congress share Thomas's view that big bombs render fallout shelters meaningless. The argument that fallout shelters offer at least some protection made no headway against the economic conservatives' argument that the protection is too small to justify the cost—estimated at \$3 billion over the next 5 years. In addition, the arguments and appraisals offered by academic and scientific organizations seem to have had some impact, generally in opposition to the shelter program. From conversations with members of Congress it appears that among the most influential of these groups was the Federation of American Scientists, which held a series of briefings for members and their staffs. Sixty-seven offices in all were represented at these sessions.

The briefings were conducted by Walter Selove, of the University of Pennsylvania physics department; Donald G. Brennan, a mathematician who heads the Hudson Institute; and Marvin Kalkstein, a nuclear chemist from the Cambridge Air Force Research Center. Their aim was to bring the audience up to date on some of the more dispassionate thinking about the fallout shelter program, with stress on its protective values and its strategic and domestic implications. Civil defense is one of the least likely subjects for "objective" discussion or purely "technical" appraisal, but the briefings tended in those directions. The effect generally was to reinforce opposition to the Administration's program.—D.S.G.

Announcements

A **high-latitude ionospheric physics section** has been established at the National Bureau of Standards' Boulder (Colo.) laboratories. The section will specialize in interpreting data on geophysical phenomena which are to be gathered at field stations situated at conjugate sites on the earth's magnetic field lines. Activities will include studies of variations in the intensity of cosmic noise, recording of very-low-frequency radio waves, photometric studies of the aurora, and conventional radio soundings of the ionosphere.

Preliminary observations at widely separated conjugate stations, such as Le Relais, Canada, and Sky-High, Antarctica, have shown marked similarities in the minute-by-minute comparison of recorded events.

The section is under the direction of Hugh J. A. Chivers, of the NBS Central Radio Propagation Laboratory.

A **Center for Strategic Studies**, to "integrate and foster research on national growth and the responsible use of national power," will open in September at Georgetown University. Initial areas of research will include military resources, domestic economic strength, international economics of national security, uses of national power, and Communist and Western strategy. Other fields, such as scientific resources, will be introduced after the center is in full operation.

Directed by Arleigh A. Burke, former chief of naval operations, U.S. Navy, the center will be staffed by several research associates, among whom are Henry Briefs and James D. Atkinson, of Georgetown, and Stefan Possony, of the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Applications for support of **geographical field research in foreign areas** are being accepted by the National Academy of Sciences. The program, sponsored by the Office of Naval Research, includes all branches of geography and closely related fields, with emphasis on physical geography. Preference will be shown for field investigations of at least 6 months' duration, preferably a year or more. Financial assistance will vary according to the

needs involved. Deadline: *1 December 1962*, for work to be initiated before 1 April 1964. (Foreign Field Research Program, Division of Earth Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington 25, D.C.)

The Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation is soliciting nominations for the 1962 international awards in **mental-retardation research, service, and leadership**. The awards, to be made in October, will vary from \$5000 to \$25,000 each, plus grants of up to \$50,000 for each recipient's project. Nominations should include supporting data, such as biography, bibliography, and important achievements. Deadline: *1 August*. (Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, 1413 K St., NW, Suite 306, Washington 5, D.C.)

Postdoctoral fellowships for basic research on **systematics and ecology of marine organisms**, with initial emphasis on invertebrates, are available at Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory. Fellows, who should have had previous research training in systematics, will largely determine the course of their own investigations. Annual stipends (maximum \$6000) will be available starting 1 September, and may be subject to renewal. (M. R. Carriker, Systematics-Ecology Program, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass.)

The National Science Foundation is offering approximately 65 **postdoctoral fellowships** in the mathematical, physical, medical, biological, and engineering sciences, and in anthropology, psychology (excluding clinical psychology), geography, economics (excluding business administration), sociology (not including social work), the history and philosophy of science, and interdisciplinary fields. Fellowships are not awarded for support of work leading to qualification in a clinical field; however, applications will be accepted from physicians who wish experience for a research career. Accepted candidates, who must be U.S. citizens, may work at any appropriate U.S. or foreign non-profit institution; arrangements for admission are the responsibility of the fellow. Fellowship activities, limited to 36 months, may begin at any time during 15 October 1962 to 15 October 1963. Stipends will be \$5000 (plus dependency and special allowances) for the first year, and \$5500 thereafter.

Deadline for submission of com-