

and in the *AIBS Bulletin* for December 1962, were ill-timed, incomplete, and insufficiently frank. I do not apologize for them, for they were written in good faith by men of good faith, in haste and under pressures that are even now painful to recall.

The editors of *Science* have permitted me to read the article by D. S. Greenberg. I believe that it is an objective statement of the situation, and I base my further remarks on the facts as reported in the article.

The gravity of the charges cannot be overemphasized. The weight of evidence of irregularity on the part of AIBS is heavy. All of us who have served on the Governing Boards and Executive Committees of the Institute throughout the years are in varying degrees responsible for permitting this situation to develop and to remain uncorrected. To some extent, each member must share the responsibility. The problem, however, is not one for biologists alone, for it in some measure reflects the difficulties besetting all of science today.

Our task now is not to assign blame but to correct the situation and to preserve AIBS for the vital functions it can and should continue to

perform for the benefit of biologists.

Our corrective actions thus far, as reported in Greenberg's article, are only emergency measures. It is necessary that we immediately propose and within 30 days set in motion a program for repayment. We must immediately place the AIBS in a position where it has the confidence of and merits renewed support from the National Science Foundation and all other agencies concerned with science.

An emergency meeting of your Governing Board has been called for January 25-26. At that time, I will propose that unprecedented, immediate action be taken. A part of the money owed the government, possibly one-third, can be obtained from royalties on the Film Series. The rest must come from the membership. If AIBS is to continue, the Governing Board must resolve to obtain prompt commitments from the individual members of the member societies to pay at least \$10 per year, beginning in 1963, for repayment of the debt and for maintenance of basic operations. An even larger sum may be necessary.

Coupled with the financial need is a need for a complete review of AIBS management activities. It is vital that

the Executive Committee and Governing Board play a more positive role in AIBS. They must discharge the responsibilities that have long been theirs, and which Sonneborn presented so forcefully in his presidential message (*AIBS Bulletin*, October 1961). At the same time, there must be a reorganization of our operations and financial management. Possibly the appointment of a general manager, a step taken on 12 December 1962 as an emergency measure, may be a first step toward a workable arrangement. A Finance Committee recently organized under the chairmanship of Paul Kramer should be a permanent part of the organization.

Should AIBS be continued? I believe it must be; we need a strong AIBS, not just as an adjunct record center and housekeeping service, but to give the several societies a central focus, a sense of direction, and continuity and meaning above and beyond their individual areas of investigation. AIBS must be continued, but *only* if biologists are now ready to accept their individual financial obligations.

JAMES D. EBERT

President, American Institute of Biological Sciences

Detergents: Reuss Bill Would Ban Those With Polluting Proclivities

Legislation aimed at taming detergents which resist degradation in ordinary waste disposal systems has been introduced by Congressman Henry Reuss. The Wisconsin Democrat's bill (H.R. 2105) would prohibit the movement in interstate commerce after 30 June 1965 of detergents which do not meet standards of "decomposability" much higher than those common in commercial detergents now in use. Responsibility for establishing standards by which detergents would be judged, and regulations for enforcement, would be assigned the Surgeon General. The legislation would subject imported detergents to the same standards.

Reuss says the bill is modeled on a statute passed by the West German Parliament in 1961 after the West German government had been unsuccessful in encouraging private industry to develop a less intransigent detergent. As a result of the law, says Reuss, new types of detergents were developed in Germany "which decompose in much

the manner of soap made from animal and vegetable fats, and they do so without foaming. They are only slightly more expensive than the nondecomposing synthetics now threatening the purity of our water."

Cooperation in Space: U.S.-Soviet Delegations to Discuss Next Moves

Working parties from the United States and the Soviet Union will meet in Rome in mid-March to make further arrangements for cooperation on three projects under a "peaceful uses of outer space" agreement announced by the two nations in December.

The bilateral agreement provides for cooperation in establishing a global weather satellite system, in mapping the earth's magnetic field, and in making experiments with communications satellites.

The American delegation will be headed by Hugh L. Dryden, deputy administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, who was the chief American negotiator in

the talks that led to the agreement last year. For the Russians, Academician A. A. Blagonravov, who was Dryden's counterpart in the negotiations, will head the delegation.

The talks are scheduled to precede a meeting of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), established by the International Council of Scientific Unions, which will be part of the second assembly in Rome (18-22 March) of the international committee that is planning the International Quiet Sun Year.

Education: ACE Asks Federal Aid To Develop a National Resource

The American Council on Education, the leading national association of colleges and universities and organizations concerned with higher education, last week released a series of recommendations on heavily increasing federal programs of aid "to develop higher education as a natural resource."

Top priorities were given by ACE

(Continued on page 355)