visory Committee on Science and Technology would soon be able to promote harmony in the government's programs.

What really motivates the Senators, however, is not a sense of disorder but a sense of exclusion. They feel that too often they are asked to act on faith in appropriating funds for scientific programs and that, as the committee stated in 1959, "unless legislative action is taken by the Congress to establish some medium through which reliable information and supporting technical data is made available to Congress by officials who are responsive to its needs, the committees of Congress will continue to be denied access to facts and reliable information necessary to the legislative process in establishing policies in the fields of science and technology."

The creation of the Office of Science and Technology has not lessened the Senators' anxieties on this score, and their concern has generated concern of a different sort within OST. Although Senator McClellan, in introducing the legislation again last week, took pains to cite recent testimony of Jerome Wiesner, Director of the Office of Science and Technology, that "the OST is neither a substitute for nor in competition with a Federal Department of Science," executive reaction to the Senate's proposal is somewhat ambivalent. While agreeing that Congress is inadequately organized to deal with the government's scientific programs and that an effective congressional operation would be desirable, presidential advisors nonetheless fear the possibly damaging recommendations that might issue from a hastily convoked, inadequately staffed, or insufficiently talented investigating commission. Reports from such commissions have plagued the executive too often in the past for them to welcome another unequivocally.

The real brake on action in Congress, however, will be the House Committee on Science and Astronautics, which shares none of the Senate's modesty about its own abilities. This committee, under its chairman, Representative George P. Miller (Dem., Calif.), has been embarked since 1961 on an ambitious campaign both to strengthen its hold over the scientific agencies specifically within its jurisdiction (National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Bureau of Standards, and National Science Foundation) and to implement the "across the board jurisdiction over basic science research and science scholarships" to which it is formally entitled. Already impeded in this latter effort by other committees with conflicting specific jurisdictions [such as Representative John Fogarty's (Dem.-R.I.) Appropriations Committee Subcommittee for Medical Research] the House Committee on Science and Astronautics has been in no mood to undercut its authority any further by sanctioning an outside investigation into the government's scientific affairs.—ELINOR LANGER

Fellowships: White House Prods Federal Agencies to Increase, and Harmonize Graduate Support

When a student looks into federally financed fellowships for graduate science study, he finds a fairly bewildering array. For example, an unmarried student taking a first-year predoctoral chemistry course could receive $1800 annually under one National Science Foundation program, or $2400 under another. A fellow student of the same marital status might receive up to $3500 a year under the new fellowship program of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, but he would receive $2000 under the National Defense Education Act, whose stipends are the only ones specifically set by Congress. The others are set at the discretion of the agencies, although NSF and the National Institutes of Health have an informal agreement to maintain similar stipend levels.

Until recently, it was generally felt that these variations did violence to nothing but an urge for consistency, but now that the administration is acutely interested in expanding and accelerating graduate training, it is beginning to suspect that the stipend market may be having a significant effect on the flow of students into specific fields and the pace of their studies.

NASA fellowships, which are about the most lucrative, are for studies in the "space-oriented" sciences, and since all the agencies are fishing in the same manpower pool, it is not unlikely that NASA's buying power is going to attract students who might otherwise have looked to other fields. In addition, stipend disparities on the same campus tend to create ill will, and for those receiving the smaller stipends, the difference may create the need for a part-time job that results in stretched-out training time. Accordingly, the White House's Office of Science and Technology is now prodding federal agencies to (i) raise their stipends to encourage more students to undertake graduate study, and (ii) arrive at some generally agreed-upon figures which would eliminate wide disparities. Though no figure has been decided upon yet, it appears that NASA's program, which provides a $2400 stipend, with another $1000 available at the discretion of the institution, is in the range that the administration thinks desirable.

On the face of it, the problem would seem to be a fairly easy one, but OST officials have noted that the agencies that have long-standing relationships with universities are reluctant to rush into setting new stipend levels. Some universities are not eager to see any substantial increase in the size of stipends: the smaller the stipends, the larger the pool of teaching assistants, or "slave laborers," as they have come to be known.

At present, following OST's urgings, NSF and NIH are reviewing stipends, and it is expected that they will announce increases, although there is no certainty that they will come up to NASA's level. OST is in a position to cajole and suggest, but the major fellowship-awarding agencies, particularly NIH, are so well established with the congressional committees that vote their funds that OST is in no position to dictate to them on matters that they consider critical to their operations. —D.S.G.

Announcements

The Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C., last month opened a new hall, **Life in the Sea.** It includes exhibits showing the physical characteristics of marine life, and their adaptations for survival, protection, and reproduction. The hall features a 92-foot, 4-ton fiberglass reproduction of a blue whale, suspended 30 feet above the floor.

The U.S. Department of the Interior has established a new field office at Flagstaff, Arizona. The station will be the headquarters for training astronauts in field **geology** and for testing instruments for use in lunar exploration. The station will also be used by the U.S. Geological Survey in its lunar investigation and geological mapping program.