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is not, however, an object of unreserved approval at Tech. Some faculty members regard the center idea as inapplicable in many fields, and one senior professor observed wryly that "a new idea sells better" in getting support money and projects. Some feel that the center threatens departmental divisions, and deeper misgivings are expressed by those who fear that projects may become the main concern at the centers, rather than students.

Concern over the implications of the centers is only one instance of the qualms fairly generally admitted at M.I.T. over the effects of the expansion of research under federal support. M.I.T., moreover, has a history of organizing its self-criticism, and the place abounds with working committees and study groups.

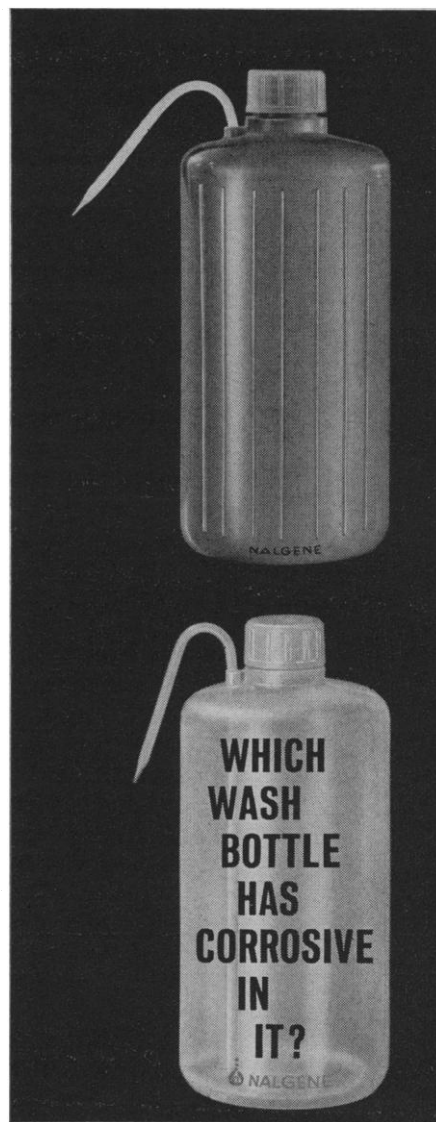
The curriculum is under permanent review, and the relationship of the Defense Laboratories to the Institute proper is apparently another subject of constant consideration. Currently under study is the extremely complicated and touchy matter of faculty conflict of interest. Outside consulting has always been a faculty prerogative, regularized on a 1-day-a-week basis, but the search for standards now focuses on such cases as that of the professor who sits on a government panel making a decision on military hardware, information on which would be useful to a company that the same professor serves as a consultant or an officer.

At M.I.T. and elsewhere the working assumption is that government support of research is here to stay and that such dilemmas will only grow more difficult. In the dynamic area of government-university relations, therefore, M.I.T. is a leader in a changing game for which the old rules will not serve.—JOHN WALSH

A View from the Pork Barrel: Congress, PHS, Haggle Over Proposed Health Center Site

There is at least one way in which Congress, its critics to the contrary, has not failed to keep up with changing times. The old tradition of the federal pork barrel has been reshaped, and Congressmen now haggle over the location of scientific facilities with all the energy once spent in pursuit of rivers and harbors projects for their own districts.

A case in point is the Public Health Service's proposal for a National Cen-



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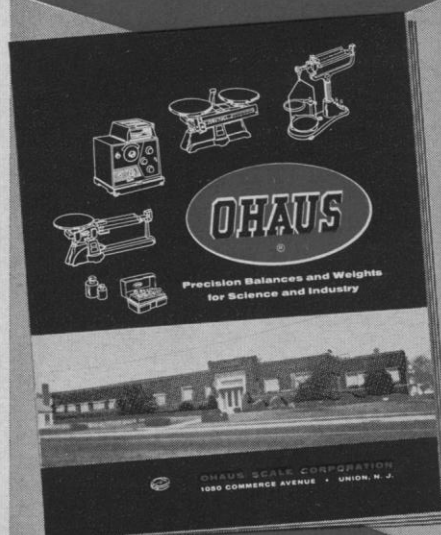
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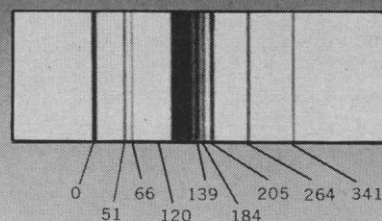
ter for Environmental Health, which the PHS would like to locate in the Washington, D.C., area. For the past 2 years Congress has refused to appropriate the \$2,761,000 requested by the PHS for site acquisition and planning, and from reports filtering out of closed appropriations hearings in the House last month, and from open hearings in the Senate, it appears that the funds may be denied this year as well.

The trouble centers wholly on the location of the proposed Center, not on its merits, for no one denies that it is badly needed. Congressmen are not unaware of the growing public anxiety over environmental contaminants—focused mainly on radioactive fallout, but ranging, too, from concern over foul air and polluted rivers to panic over Thanksgiving cranberries—and they have long recognized that existing Public Health Service programs in these fields are fragmented and inadequate. Congress is willing to support an expansion of PHS programs and the building of an Environmental Health Center somewhere, but it will not be persuaded that the Washington location is crucial.

The Public Health Service believes that it is. Environmental health is a new field, significantly different from disease-centered public health activities, and its focus on protection from the adverse by-products of technological change requires a new kind of organization, for operational programs as well as for research. Responding to the new problems, the Public Health Service has accumulated new divisions, but in a helter-skelter way—Food Protection in the early 1940's, Air Pollution in 1955, Radiological Health in 1958. These, plus divisions on Water Pollution and Occupational Health, and some field facilities—the Taft Sanitary Engineering Center in Cincinnati, three radiological laboratories, and a shellfish laboratory—make up the present PHS effort. It is supplemented by the environmental health activities of other government agencies—the Atomic Energy Commission in radiation, the Food and Drug Administration in food protection, and a half-dozen agencies with interest in water resources.

By seeking to place its Environmental Health Center in Washington, the PHS hopes not only to coordinate its own research and operational activities with these other agencies but to take advantage of Washington's other scientific institutions and resources—the National Institutes of Health, the

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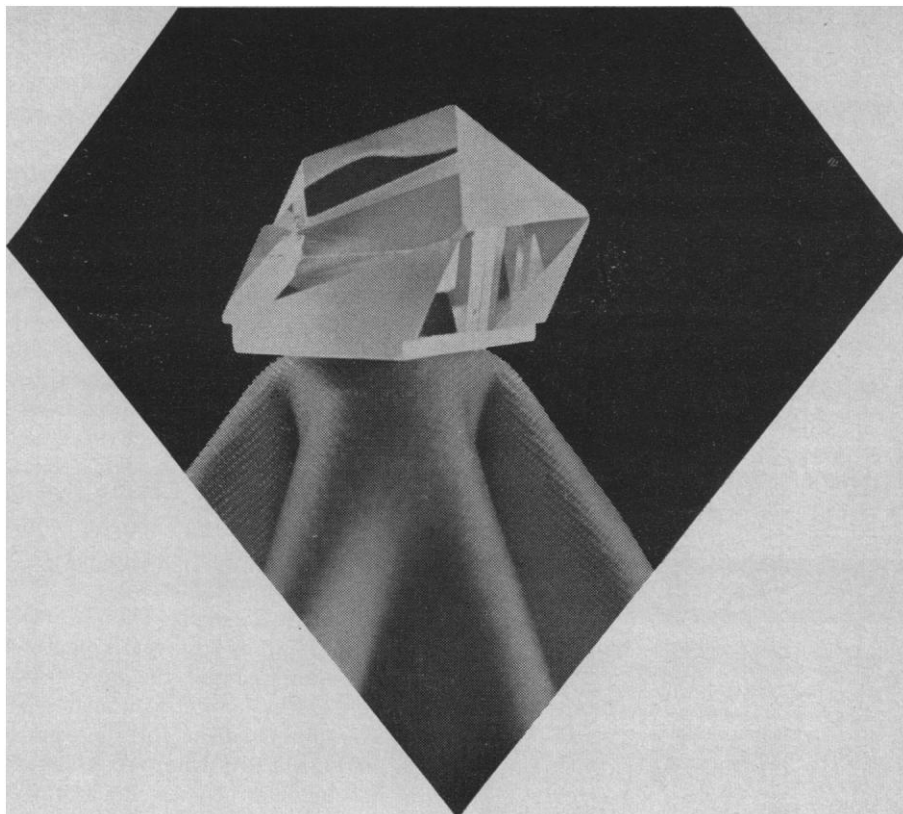
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Bureau of Standards, the National Science Foundation—and to get a voice for itself in policy-making both within its own Department (Health, Education, and Welfare) and in scientific councils generally. PHS officials do not deny that attractive scientific resources exist elsewhere in the country; it is just, as one of them put it, that “Washington and Washington alone has the other government agencies.” The officials also point out that between one-third and two-thirds of the Center’s future personnel are already located in Washington and that relocating them would be costly and inconvenient.

Since its first rejection by Congress in 1961, the PHS proposal has been reviewed by two scientific panels—one, the Gross Committee, appointed by the Surgeon General, the other a panel appointed by the President’s Science Adviser—and both have endorsed the Washington location. And in his health message to Congress last February, President Kennedy specified that the money he had budgeted was for “a central facility in the Washington area which can serve as a focal point for related research, training and technical assistance in environmental health.”

Still, Congress refuses to be convinced and wants to see the Center located elsewhere. The objections are not solely those of the pork barrel—although the Congressmen vie with each other in illuminating the virtues of their own districts as sites—but a compound of other things as well. A financial argument—that land costs in the Washington area are too high—is actually irrelevant, since the Beltsville, Maryland, site the PHS wants is already owned by the government. Another argument has to do with national security—and here the Congressmen are still responding to the directives on decentralization of a few years ago (since quietly shelved), which chased the Atomic Energy Commission about 30 miles into Maryland, the Social Security Administration into Baltimore, and the Central Intelligence Agency somewhat beyond the local suburbs.

A combination of these objections was expressed at last year’s appropriations hearings by Representative Charles R. Jonas, Republican, of North Carolina (whose governor had offered a free site there for the Center). Jonas wondered why, “if you can get a location such as this donated free of charge . . . you should spend \$3000



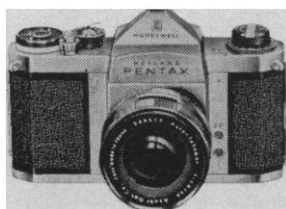
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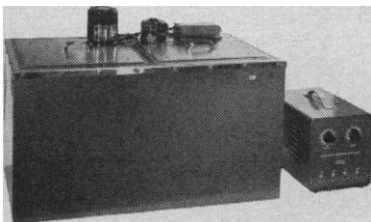
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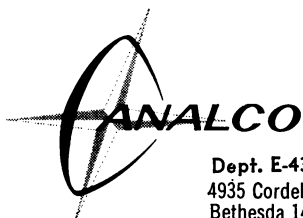


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Other objections grow out of a skeptical view of administrators generally, and a feeling that Congress is being put upon by "experts." Senator Robert Byrd (D. W.VA.), who blocked the appropriation on its first appearance in 1961 and dominated the Senate hearings last month, pointed out that any government agency wanting to expand could demonstrate that Washington was the "focal point" of its activities, and called the process a "vicious circle . . . that must stop somewhere." A good way to begin, he thought, would be to build the Environmental Health Center in West Virginia.

Representative Albert Thomas (D.-Tex.), presiding at last year's hearings in the House, thought the administrators were plain lazy: "You just want to make it convenient for the gentlemen here in town who are going to run it," he said. "They do not like to get outside the District of Columbia." And when the PHS witness justified the Washington site in terms of coordination with other agencies, Thomas said, "You are talking like a bureaucrat. Let's get down on the people's level."

Since the Public Health Service is not about to give up its insistence on Washington and Congress is not likely to appropriate the money unless it does, it appears that, although everybody wants an Environmental Health Center, nobody is going to get it—at least not soon. It is understood that in the House the five-man appropriations subcommittee is split three ways, with its chairman John Fogarty (D.-R.I.), and another member supporting the PHS, two members opposing, and a fifth sitting on the fence. In the Senate the opposition of Senator Byrd alone is probably enough to block the appropriation. And, to further confuse the issue, a new move is now afoot in Congress to take the water pollution control programs out of the Public Health Service altogether. This move, supported by 18 Senators and several Congressmen, stems from the feeling that the health-oriented PHS is not the best agent for enforcing antipollution measures. The possible removal of this large chunk from the operations of the Environmental Health Center raises another question about what form it will take when it finally does go through.—ELINOR LANGER

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