pecially interested in an orbiting space station and in the development of space vehicles capable of intercepting and capturing or neutralizing satellites, which they suspect might one day be bombs in orbit.

So far they have been given limited encouragement, but it is incorrect to say that NASA has stood in the way. Rather, top Defense Department officials have kept a fairly tight rein on Air Force development of novel and astronomically expensive space weapons systems and have required that concrete proposals be made to show specifically how space can be exploited militarily. Senior Air Force officers have argued angrily that you can't know what can be done if you don't have the money to try.

In recent weeks, reports that top-level policy changes will expand the military space program have appeared in the aerospace trade press, but so far there are no signs of changes in the budget for military space research, which for 2 years had been maintained at about $1.5 billion.

There is, however, pressure in Congress for greater emphasis on space weaponry, and this has, if anything, been increased by the partial test ban agreement. The latest example, and a fairly typical one, was a statement released last week by the House Republican Policy Committee's subcommittee on the military role in space. The report was keyed to the view that "the evidence is persuasive that the military is not playing the role it should in space and that corrective action should be initiated immediately."

The conclusions put forward by the three-man subcommittee, headed by Representative Louis C. Wyman of New York, urged these steps: "i) Conduct of our national space program as a true partnership between NASA and the Department of Defense; ii) A shift of emphasis from research to operations in the various projects approved by the Department of Defense; iii) A determination on the part of the Administration that no 'military gap' should be allowed to develop—regardless of the current 'peace offensive' of the Soviet Union."

Partisan purposes cannot be discounted in the task force report, but the paper probably reflects not only the views of a number of younger House Republicans active in the policy committee but also sentiments held by a fair number of legislators of both parties in both houses.

It is clear, therefore, that NASA has recently suffered some unaccustomed difficulties and reverses. But it would be overstating things greatly to say that the tide has turned and is running against the agency. It would be more accurate to observe that NASA has entered a new phase.

The agency's way in the early days was smoothed by such potent interference runners as Lyndon Johnson and the late Senator Robert Kerr (D–Okla.). Now it is, to a much greater extent, on its own. NASA must defend itself against the onslaughts of the economizers, accept the consequences of cold war ups and downs, give solid answers to its critics, and pay the price of its own bumptiousness.

If some of the excitement has gone out of the space endeavor, NASA, in a brief 5 years, has established itself firmly with many solid accomplishments. If the legislators have grown more sophisticated and their questions about NASA activities sharper, the agency and its program still command strong support in Congress.

In other words, NASA, after 5 years, has come down to earth.—JOHN WALSH

Announcements

Academy Centenary

The National Academy of Sciences will observe its 100th anniversary with a series of scientific meetings and social and ceremonial events on 21–24 October.

Founded during the Civil War, the Academy provided technical expertise for the government in that conflict and then went on to play a key role as a source of advice on a broad range of issues involving science and government. Although the Academy has had a long association with governmental affairs, it is an independent organization that is close to government but formally outside of it. Its charter, which was granted by an Act of Congress on 3 March 1863, assigns it the task of furthering science in the national interest and advising the federal government on scientific and technological matters upon request.

Under this mandate it has been intimately involved in the growth of American scientific and technical activities. Its early services included the appointment of committees on weights and measures, the protection of coal mines against explosions, and the surveying and mapping of U.S. territories. Its recommendations led to the establishment of the U.S. Geological Survey, the Weather Bureau, the National Bureau of Standards, and the U.S. Forest Service. During World War I the Academy established the National Research Council to help organize the nation's scientific resources for national defense. In World War II it was responsible for many activities under the federal Office of Scientific Research and Development.

In recent years the 670-member organization has been responsible for U.S. participation in many major international scientific efforts, including the International Geophysical Year; it serves as an adviser on the scientific content of the space program, and among numerous other activities, it is conducting a study on the nation's use of its scientific and engineering manpower.

Attendance at the centennial observance is by invitation only.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Applications are being accepted for the Glorney-Raisbeck fellowship in the **medical sciences,** for the academic year beginning next July. The fellowship carries a $6000 stipend. Applicants must hold the M.D. degree and be residents of New York or adjacent areas. They must also have an institutional appointment which will supplement the stipend and enable them to carry out their research or study program. The fellowship may be renewed for two additional years. Deadline for receipt of applications: *1 November.* (A. C. McGuinness, Committee on Medical Education, New York Academy of Medicine, 2 E. 103 St., New York 29)

Four postdoctoral fellowships in research and clinical **allergy** are available from the Allergy Foundation of America. Stipends are $5400 the first year and $6300 the second, plus a total of $800 for laboratory and travel expenses. Candidates must be graduates of approved medical schools and have completed at least 2 years of hospital internship. Recipients of the fellowships will engage in research and in clinical training as arranged with their preceptor. (Secretary, Scientific and Educational Council, Allergy Foundation of America, 801 Second Ave., New York 17)