

years have discovered that it does no harm to ask the aid of their legislators, whether the matter is a vote in behalf of a bill to aid higher education or an application for a federally financed summer institute. Congressional intercession in matters of research or education is generally in the form of a politely phrased letter expressing interest. If the writer happens, for example, to be on one of the committees responsible for the agency's fate, the letter may have a discernible effect.

Alliances between legislators and colleges and universities in their bailiwicks are likely to grow stronger, and the MURA affair is probably a harbinger. These alliances are sure to be based on direct working relationships between the congressman or senator and the president of the university or college, because a major incentive for the legislator in such an alliance is the political advantage which can be derived from public association with the university in his constituency. And the president is the chief symbol of his institution's prestige.

To put it baldly, the president or a distinguished researcher is a university's best lobbyist, but the size and complexity of the job for the institutions heavily engaged in federal research pushes them toward stationing auxiliaries in Washington.

Many universities have appointed directors of research on their campuses to handle the complications of book-keeping and administration of federal research grants and contracts, and the Washington office seems to be a kind of logical extension of this apparatus.

For the university which has some federal research funds but wants more—the "upward mobile" institution, as one association staff member put it—a Washington branch may look like a competitive necessity.

For the small institution, looking for a broker, the possibilities are becoming clearer. Consortiums of institutions sharing a Washington staff are being discussed. Private enterprise in the form of numbers of knowledgeable lawyers and at least one consulting firm run by two former newspapermen now offer expertise in problems afflicting educational institutions. One nonprofit research institute in Washington is also considering setting up a consulting service.

Washington representation for colleges and universities in the future, it appears, is going to be a lot less an amateur's game.—JOHN WALSH

## **Mental Health: Slash in Funds for Staffing Raises Problems; House Begins Medicare Hearings**

The official word on the new mental health legislation which became law on Hallowe'en is, in the words of the President and several Public Health Service officials, that "it signals a new era in the approach to this country's mental health problems."

In a theoretical sense, this is true enough. Over the next 3 years the federal government will contribute up to \$150 million for construction of community-based public mental health centers that will link mental patients far more closely with their normal community environments than the traditional centralized state institutions have done. The centers, according to Robert Felix, head of the National Institute of Mental Health, will be "designed to provide preventive services, early diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness, both on an inpatient and outpatient basis, and to serve as a base for aftercare of discharged hospital patients."

The trouble is, however, that Congress failed to appropriate the money the President had intended for staffing the centers, thus raising the spectre of attractive new centers, theoretically sound, but inadequately or incompetently attended. Appropriating money for buildings, then refusing money to staff them, is a minor tradition in Congress—particularly in the House, which has always been reluctant to pay non-federal employees with federal funds. Sometimes, for variety, Congress neglects to appropriate money even for staffing federal buildings with federal employees—a problem currently afflicting four laboratories the Department of Agriculture has built to use for insect and insect-control research.

In the case of the mental health program, the omission of salaries for staff workers, a provision opposed by the AMA, may be serious. States and communities have very limited budgets for health programs, and officials who were initially elated are now openly concerned lest the new centers simply fail to attract the first-rate people

## **New Science Head for Disarmament Agency**

Herbert Scoville, Jr., a former deputy director for research at the Central Intelligence Agency, has been named head of the Bureau of Science and Technology in the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. The nomination, made by President Kennedy, must be approved by the Senate, but Scoville is already serving the agency in a full-time consultative capacity.

In his new post at ACDA, Scoville succeeds Franklin A. Long, who headed the science bureau from February 1962 until his return this fall to Cornell University, where he is chairman of the chemistry department. The principal job of the science bureau is to conduct and sponsor research on the scientific and technical aspects of arms control and disarmament, but in practice the bureau has branched out into the study of political and social factors as well. Long was also head of ACDA's research council, an interbureau committee which determines the agency's overall research pursuits, and it is assumed that Scoville will take over that function too.

Scoville, 48, received a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Rochester in 1942, following undergraduate work at Yale and graduate studies at Cambridge University, England. From 1948 to 1955 he was technical director of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, responsible for planning and directing nuclear weapons tests for the Department of Defense, and from 1955 to 1963 he was with the CIA, where he handled disarmament affairs, first as assistant director for scientific intelligence, later as deputy director for research. Scoville has been on the nuclear and disarmament panels of the Air Force Science Advisory Board for about 5 years, and he was a U.S. delegate to the 1958 Geneva Conference on detecting violations of agreements to suspend nuclear testing. Since 1957 he has served as a consultant to the President's Science Advisory Committee on matters including disarmament.—E.L.

needed to make the innovation a success. "You can't construct something without knowledgeable people around to advise," Stafford Warren, Kennedy's special assistant for mental retardation, pointed out recently. A related problem is that the states that need talented people in the field of mental health the most are the least able to attract them, if they have to draw exclusively on their own resources. The equalizing effect of federal funds for salaries was intended in part to minimize the differences between states, and now the money will not be available. Construction plans also may be affected by inequalities among the states. "The construction money [\$150 million, with the government contributing between 45-75% of the costs] . . . seems a lot," Warren said, "but by the time it's divided up between the states, it's only peanuts."

In total, the difference between Kennedy's request for mental health and the actual appropriation was \$564 million. The administration intends to ask Congress early next year for a supplemental appropriation to cover at least part of the staff salaries.

Of the \$329 million that was appropriated, \$150 million goes for the community centers, \$126 million (over 5 years) goes for constructing research and treatment facilities for the mentally retarded, and \$53 million (over 3 years) goes for training teachers of mentally retarded and handicapped children. An additional \$125 million, from a separate appropriation, will support still more activities in the research and treatment of retardation—university programs, personnel training, local facilities.

Even in its reduced form, the mental health campaign will be one of the largest public health projects begun in recent years. Construction aspects of the program will be administered through the Hill-Burton facilities of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the research aspects will be handled through NIH. The National Institute of Mental Health and the new Institute of Child Health and Human Development will be directly concerned with the program. Other institutes may be brought in later.

The other major piece of health legislation sought by Kennedy—federal aid in building and modernizing medical schools, and aid to medical students—was passed by Congress earlier this year. In the field of health there re-

mains of the President's plans only the old bugbear, the King-Anderson bill to extend Social Security to include hospital and nursing care for the elderly. Hearings on the bill opened last week in the House Ways and Means Committee, only a few days after a bipartisan National Committee on Health Care for the Aged issued a report calling for joint private and governmental financing of a medicare plan. The administration was silent on the committee's compromise recommendation, and the AMA immediately announced its opposition, but several Senators who have been backing the administration, including Clinton Anderson (D-N.M.), the bill's cosponsor, called it "quite significant," and "encouraging."

The prognosis for a compromise on medicare is bleak—but so are the chances of the King-Anderson bill in its present form. Two years ago the bill was defeated in the Senate, and though it was never brought to a vote in the House Ways and Means Committee, that committee rejected a similar proposal during the Eisenhower administration. The President's lieutenants are trying to line up support for the bill for an election-year vote, but it is generally thought that Kennedy's position in the Southern-dominated Ways and Means Committee, because of the civil rights issue, is no stronger than it was 2 years ago. Medicare is expected to suffer accordingly.—ELINOR LANGER

## Announcements

Belo Horizonte, Brazil, is the site of the recently established **Schistosomiasis** Snail Identification Center for the Americas. It is the first facility of its kind in the Western Hemisphere, and is located at Brazil's National Institute for Rural Endemic Diseases. The center was established because of the increasing incidence of "snail fever," or schistosomiasis, which afflicts an estimated five million persons in the hemisphere.

The U.S. Department of the Navy, Bureau of Ships, invites proposals for fundamental research in **hydromechanics**, to be conducted during the fiscal year starting 1 July 1964 under a program administered by the David Taylor Model Basin. Participation by both university and industrial laboratories is encouraged. The major fields

of interest are fluid mechanics, naval architecture, and underwater acoustics. A 16 March deadline has been announced; informal inquiries on the suitability of subjects will be accepted until 1 February. Information is available from S. F. Crump, contract research administrator, Hydromechanics Laboratory, David Taylor Model Basin, Washington.

## Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

The graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, has begun a postdoctoral program in **endocrinology**. Applications will be accepted throughout the year from persons in the United States who hold a Ph.D., M.D., or D.V.M. degree. The appointments carry a \$6500 annual stipend. Notification of the awards will be made 1 December and 1 April for participants to begin work either in July or September. (W. H. McShan, Birge Hall, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison 6)

Fellowships are available from the Population Council for graduate level research in **demography**. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree, although they need not be candidates for an advanced degree at this time. Applicants may choose their own project and place of work, and there are no restrictions as to citizenship. The fellowships are for 1 year. They carry a \$2700 stipend plus tuition, university fees, and allowance for supplies. Postdoctoral fellows will receive higher stipends. Deadline for applications from the U.S. and Canada: *30 December*; from other countries: *10 January*. (Fellowship Secretary, Population Council, 230 Park Ave., New York 17)

The National Science Foundation has announced the availability of approximately 185 **postdoctoral fellowships**. The awards are for study and/or research in mathematics or the various areas of the social, physical, or biological sciences. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or nationals. Stipends are \$5500 a year, plus limited dependent and travel allowances. The fellowship work may be carried out in suitable non-profit U.S. or foreign institutions. Deadline for applications: *16 December*. (Fellowship Office, NAS-NRC, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.)