

the Food and Drug Administration, along with proof that the residue would not be dangerous in the amounts expected to be used. Only after FDA had established a tolerance indicating safe levels for the residue, and had notified the Agriculture Department, could the pesticide be registered or sold—and then it was registered for use in accord with the specific tolerance set. Congressman Dingell's bill would establish a roughly similar consultative role for the Department of the Interior, only with the emphasis on establishment of guidelines for preservation of fish and wildlife, not people.

The Agriculture Department, which last week published new administrative regulations strengthening its control over pesticide labeling, does not want to see the Interior Department move into the role of co-evaluator of pesticide registration. Bureaucratic jealousy plays a role in USDA opposition, as does a feeling that the administration of the registration program would be hopelessly muddled by the presence of too many chiefs. Underlying these differences, however, is a built-in conflict: the USDA's job is to prevent bugs from hurting crops, while the job of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, and of its Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, is to prevent pesticides and other intrusions from hurting animals and fish. Although the outcome of his efforts are unpredictable, Representative Dingell plans to take advantage of the renewed concern over pesticides to get action on his bill from the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, in which it is lodged.

A loophole in the pesticide laws, the requirement that USDA register for sale even those pesticides for which the manufacturer's evidence of safety and effectiveness is not deemed sufficient, is the subject of another bill, this one introduced by former Secretary of HEW, Senator Ribicoff. Ribicoff's bill, following through on a suggestion of the PSAC report, would eliminate these so-called "protest registrations" and clear up the purchaser's confusion over whether the chemical he is buying is or is not approved. At present, the pesticides registered under protest, like the approved ones, remain on the market for 5 years, unless the USDA itself develops evidence to prove them unsafe. Although there is no opposition to closing this loophole, Agriculture officials are quick to point out

that it has been used very rarely—only 27 times, they say, out of over 54,000 registrations—and that it has probably had little adverse effect on public safety. The bill has been approved by both House and Senate, but minor differences remain to be resolved before final passage. Ribicoff has also announced that a subcommittee of the Senate Government Operations Committee, of which he is a member, will resume hearings in 2 weeks on questions highlighted by the Mississippi situation.

So far, at least, the federal reaction to the pesticide controversy can be summed up only as piecemeal and inadequate. Individuals are making progress on a variety of small fronts, but the cause and its leadership are diffuse, and their results are often dissipated in political and bureaucratic bickering of Congress and the departments. On what is probably the central question in the controversy—regulation of the use of pesticides after sale—there has been no activity at all, and not even the most optimistic supporter of federal action expects any. In its report last spring, the President's Science Advisory Committee said, modestly, that while it could state the case—"the benefits, the hazards, and the methods of controlling the hazards . . . and suggest ways of avoiding or lessening the hazards . . . in the end society must decide." Unfortunately, society has no way of dealing with these issues, except through its elected and appointed leaders. If they don't do the job, who will?—ELINOR LANGER

### Mary I. Bunting Named to AEC

Mary I. Bunting, president of Radcliffe College, has been named to fill a vacancy on the five-member Atomic Energy Commission left by the resignation on 1 February of Robert E. Wilson, a former oil company executive.

Mrs. Bunting, a microbiologist, went to the Radcliffe presidency in 1959 from Rutgers University, where she was a professor of bacteriology and dean of Douglass College. She joins two other members with scientific backgrounds on the commission, chairman Glenn T. Seaborg, a chemist, and Gerald F. Tape, a physicist. The other two commissioners, John G. Palfrey and James T. Ramey, are lawyers.

## Announcements

S. Fred Singer has resigned as head of the U.S. Weather Bureau's national weather satellite center to become dean of the recently announced school of **environmental and planetary sciences** at the University of Miami. The school, which will begin operation in September, will consist of four institutes: marine science, which is already in existence at the university under the direction of F. G. Walton Smith; planetary bioscience, led by Sidney W. Fox, now director of space biosciences at Florida State University; atmospheric science, and space physics, for which the heads will be named.

The school will offer programs leading to the master's and Ph.D. degrees, arranged to fit the needs of the individual students; courses and research work may be undertaken in one or more of the institutes simultaneously.

### Scientists in the News

The new president of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists is **Arnold Grobman**, director of the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

**Charles V. Kidd**, associate director for training at the National Institutes of Health, has been appointed to the new NIH position of Associate Director for International Activities.

**Bertram S. Kraus**, formerly professor of physical anthropology at the University of Washington, has been appointed director and research coordinator of the Cleft Palate Research Center, of the University of Pittsburgh, and professor of anatomy at the university's dentistry school.

**J. James Smith**, formerly chief of the medical service at Manhattan Veterans Administration Hospital, has been appointed director of medicine at the Methodist Hospital of Brooklyn, and clinical professor of medicine at the Downstate Medical Center, State University of New York.

*Erratum:* In the report: "Conglutination: Specific inhibition by carbohydrates" by Myron A. Leon and Ryuichi Yokohari [*Science* 143, 1327 (20 Mar. 1964)] there is an error in Table 1. The molarity required for inhibition in the third group of inhibitors is 0.006, not 0.060.