

NEWS AND COMMENT

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promise and conservatism" in art. "France has had a national academy of arts for years," said Representative William S. Broomfield of Michigan. "But beaux arts has had a consistent habit of turning its back on the man with talent and rewarding the man who follows the safe party-line and does not dare to deviate from the norm."

Attempts at control of the arts, possibly by headline-seeking politicians, also were viewed by these critics as a possibility to be dreaded. "We will not have to worry about pop art. It will be pap art or poppa art in honor of the man who has the official word and his hands on the federal purse strings," said Broomfield, who predicted the coming of a Soviet-style "culture czar." Such forebodings were dismissed by the NFAH bill's supporters. They said that with distinguished practitioners in the arts and humanities serving on the advisory councils, unwise federal intervention in their fields could be discouraged.

Although opposed to a subsidy for the arts, Representative Albert H. Quie, a Minnesota Republican, favored sup-

port for the humanities. In a report on the NFAH bill, he cautioned, however, that it would be inappropriate to follow the NSF example of making grants to individuals as well as to institutions. He observed that grants to individuals sometimes have resulted in differences between the recipients and their institutions which have gone unresolved because of the grantees' independent status. "Such situations, when they occur, are disruptive of the normal university relationships and they ought not to be encouraged by federal programs," Quie said.

In testifying for the NFAH bill, Kingman Brewster, president of Yale University, had warned that government and the humanities scholar should be insulated from each other. If there is to be direct support of individual research projects, it should be for the development of techniques or the purchase of equipment and not for specific research raising questions of taste, ideology, and esthetic judgment, Brewster said. But he was confident that by trial and error the Endowment chairmen and advisory councils would develop appropriate policies. The NFAH legislation itself by no means precludes direct support to scholars, however.

Some members of Congress fear that the new foundation will quickly outgrow its swaddling clothes and claim a budget large enough to support comparison with NSF's. But the chances of this appear minimal, since the arts and humanities neither require such elaborate and costly equipment as the sciences nor claim so direct a relationship to the national security. Moreover, the role envisaged for NFAH is primarily that of a catalyst to engender greater support for the arts and humanities from state, local, and philanthropic sources.

The foundation's initial authorization of \$20 million a year is small compared to NSF's budget of nearly half a billion. Beginning life less than 15 years ago with \$3½ million, NSF has seen its appropriations rise steadily, as Congress, partly in response to cold war competition, has sought to keep American science preeminent. For NFAH to gather comparable momentum is scarcely conceivable.

—LUTHER J. CARTER

Announcements

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Federal German Ministry for Scientific Research have signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" for cooperation in a space research program regarding the **earth's radiation belts**. Objectives are studies of the inner radiation belt, of electrons in the horn of the outer radiation zone, and of solar proton events. Plans call for placing a German scientific satellite in a polar orbit in 1968. The project will involve scientists from the Max Planck Institute for Physics and Astrophysics, the University of Kiel, and the Max Planck Institute for Aeronomy; U.S. participation will be under the NASA Office of International Affairs.

A **water resources research center** has been established at Pennsylvania State University to help coordinate research on water use, purification, conservation, pollution, and related problems. It will be part of the 2-year-old Institute for Research on Land and Water Resources, and will be directed by E. Bruce Jones, an assistant professor of meteorology at the university. The center was set up with the help of a \$140,000 grant from the Office of Water Resources Research, U.S. Department of the Interior.

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