

A Hard Decision

The decision to move to Charlottesville was not made easily. For one thing, a number of people who have been associated with the development of the observatory from the beginning had a personal commitment to the idea that it could flourish as a self-contained institution. It was felt that, particularly during the development period, it was desirable for the scientific staff to be on hand, and it was also anticipated by some that the observatory would grow into a larger and more diversified operation than it has so far become. Whether this was a plausible theory has been a topic of recurrent debate since the NRAO was first proposed. Most astronomy observatories—which, like the NRAO, are necessarily located in out-of-the-way places—have arrangements similar to the one NRAO is establishing, with the observing facilities in a secluded spot and the scientific facilities in an urban center. Most are also affiliated with universities. The major exception to this pattern has been the University of California's Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton, where the entire operation has been located on the mountain, and there, too, plans are now being made for the astronomers to leave the mountain and establish a scientific branch on the campus of the University of California at Santa Cruz. But at Green Bank the hope for a self-sustaining intellectual community with a constant interaction between the observing programs and the laboratory was very strong, and it has been abandoned only with reluctance.

In addition to requiring intellectual readjustments, the move to Charlottesville also poses some personal difficulties. The fact that some people are going and some are staying tends to create what one observer described as "first and second class citizens" which makes relations delicate among the observatory's staff. Some feel that the move has also confirmed the townspeople's suspicion that the scientists regard them as somehow unworthy, and that they may also fear loss of the extra money that the observatory brings in. (One paradox of the Green Bank situation is that, while it was chosen specifically for its isolation and quiet, its presence has tended to attract certain activities which to some degree impinge on its solitude. A scenic railway has been built nearby, campgrounds and other tourist attractions are being opened, and plans are afoot within the

government for developing a modest tourist center at the NRAO itself.) In all these situations, time and tact will probably supply the healing reassurances. But they will never erase the impression of the emigrants to Charlottesville that the best environment for science is not necessarily the best environment for scientists.

—ELINOR LANGER

Congress: In Session of Heavy Legislative Output Legislators Paid New Attention to Environment

The 89th Congress had barely ended its first session 2 weeks ago when President Johnson made it clear that the recess will be only a breathing space, and he does not expect the second session to be a pleasant prelude to next fall's congressional campaign, as many roll-call-weary legislators had hoped it might be.

In this recently adjourned session Congress surpassed the legislative output of the preceding session and, in terms of quantity and innovation, rivaled FDR's "first 100 days."

The main legislative events were passage of medical care for the aged and a voting rights bill. Repeal of certain excise taxes was perhaps the chief piece of economic legislation.

Left over—as the President pointed out, striking a note of disappointment—were several items which originally had been given fairly high priority by the administration. Notable among these were repeal of section 14 (b) of the Taft-Hartley Act, which permits state laws banning the union shop; a rent subsidy provision to benefit low-income families; and an increase in the minimum wage. These are controversial measures, and the majority leadership and the administration cannot be congratulating themselves on having permitted them to be held over into an election year when partisan passions rise and labor and welfare legislation is traditionally harder to enact.

The session brought no striking legislative novelties directly affecting the scientific estate, although it was a remarkable year for education and for programs dealing with natural resources and the environment.

Education

The Elementary and Secondary School Act passed last spring (*Science*, 22 January) and the Higher Education

Act passed on the eve of adjournment (*Science*, 29 October) shatter precedents. The school bill for the first time makes federal funds available for use in nonpublic as well as public schools, thus breaching—perhaps "bypassing" is a better word—the obstacle of the church-state issue. A main feature of the Higher Education Act is the provision of federal funds for grants to needy students; this is the first time such funds have in effect been made available for scholarships.

A desire in Congress to counterbalance the effects of federal favoritism shown the sciences was at least in part responsible for passage of a bill creating a National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities (*Science*, 1 October). Some \$63 million is authorized during the fiscal year for aid to the visual and performing arts and for scholarships in the humanities.

Health

Under the stewardship of Representative John E. Fogarty (D-R.I.) and Senator Lister Hill (D-Ala.), federal funds for medical research made their customary annual advance. The most significant departure in health programs came with the approval of a 3-year, \$340-million program designed, as Fogarty said in an end-of-session report, "for establishment of regional medical programs designed to make the latest advances in diagnosis and treatment available to all heart, cancer and stroke patients throughout the country." These regional medical programs are the result of much-modified recommendations by a Presidential committee (*Science*, 15 October).

Medical libraries were also given a federal boost by approval of grants of \$105 million over 5 years to improve library services and facilities. The object is to encourage the establishment of regional medical libraries.

One of the least controversial bills of the session was the Drug Abuse Control Act of 1965, which amended existing drug regulations to greatly strengthen Food and Drug Administration controls over the distribution of depressant and stimulant drugs (*Science*, 27 August).

Resources and the Environment

Prompted, perhaps, by a water shortage in the Northeast and a growing public awareness of the place of pollutants in everyday life, the Congress was extraordinarily active in passing a

kind of conservation legislation aimed at self-preservation.

Both air-pollution and water-pollution legislation was significantly strengthened. A "Clean Air Bill," in one of its major sections, directs the government to establish standards for controlling emission of pollutants by new-motor-vehicle engines and other machinery. In a second section it underwrites a program of research and development on better ways to dispose of solid wastes. The main new feature in the amendments to water-pollution legislation is the provision of federal water-quality standards for interstate streams.

Dry reservoirs and advances in the state of the art of desalinization gave impetus to an extension of the federal program for conversion of saline water and a hefty increase in funds (*Science*, 5 March).

A 4-year fight, overhung with the aroma of the pork barrel, ended early this year with a compromise agreement on the location of an environmental health facility. Federal bureaucrats had wanted to locate it in the Washington area. A three-way split was agreed on, with elements of the facility going to North Carolina, Ohio, and West Virginia (*Science*, 15 January).

This session also saw the birth of a new agency designed—according to President Johnson—to provide "a single national focus for our efforts to describe, understand and predict the state of the oceans, the state of the lower and upper atmosphere and the size and shape of the earth."

The Environmental Science Services Administration is a consolidation of two old-line science agencies, the Weather Bureau and the Coast and Geodetic Survey, plus the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory at Boulder, Colorado, all of them Department of Commerce subsidiaries.

Efforts to consolidate or at least coordinate far-flung federal science activities in general, however, did not make conspicuous progress this year. A perennial congressional effort to centralize control in the field of oceanography again went awry. Differing bills to provide a national oceanographic program passed House and Senate. The Senate measure called for creation of a cabinet-level National Council on Marine Science, Engineering and Resources, while the House version left this out. The differences are unresolved. Still another bill, backed by the White House, places with the President the

responsibility for planning and carrying out oceanographic programs.

One new program which may be said to have risen phoenix-like from the congressional ash heap is the State Technical Services Act, designed to make the fruits of scientific and technological advances more readily available to business and industry. The new program provides \$60 million in matching grants over 3 years to states which establish technical information programs to assist business in applying new developments and techniques. Congress earlier repudiated a broader program (known as the Civilian Industrial Technology) and seems to have accepted the new approach because it follows the familiar university-extension-service pattern.

The record of a Congress, of course, cannot be judged on the basis of legislation alone, and the present Congress has displayed considerable liveliness in exercising its investigatory powers in sectors that concern science.

The Daddario subcommittee of the House Science and Astronautics Committee turned its attention to particulars in the second year of its existence and examined the programs and the operation of the National Science Foundation. The tone of the hearings was far from hostile, but the subcommittee appears to have some recommendations for changes both in NSF's organic law and in the Foundation's administration. The hearings have been published, and a report is under preparation. It is expected that a bill embodying recommended changes in the NSF law will be put into the hopper at the beginning of the new session, and hearings will be held on that bill.

Another House space committee subcommittee, at the close of the session, issued a report highly critical of the conduct of the Surveyor soft-lander program; the Surveyor is to follow the Ranger series in unmanned exploration of the moon. A NASA oversight-subcommittee "Surveyor panel," headed by Representative Joseph E. Karth (D-Minn.), commented harshly on the role of NASA, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (the project manager), and the Hughes Aircraft Company (the major contractor on the project). A similarly stinging report preceded changes in the management of the Ranger project, which had suffered a succession of failures until Ranger VI reversed the trend.

A House Government Operations

subcommittee headed by Representative Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.) examined federally sponsored research and education programs and came up with a report which showed some fairly serious debits as well as credits in estimates of the effects of federal programs on the universities (*Science*, 22 October).

Representative H. L. Fountain (D-N.C.), sometime scourge of the National Institutes of Health, shifted his sights to the Food and Drug Administration. The impact of his intergovernmental operations subcommittee's investigation of the safety of drugs on the market has been greater than some observers had anticipated.

The questions of patent-law and copyright-law reform, which have been under serious study for years, again did not quite come before the Congress for action. Drastic changes in both patent and copyright policy have been proposed, and Congress appears to be close to the point of decision on both matters. In each case, however, nothing like consensus has been achieved, and Congress may avoid—as it might like to in other matters—an election-year showdown.—JOHN WALSH

Speaker Ban (II): Controversial Law Endangers U.N.C.'s Standing; Move To Abolish It Expected Soon

Chapel Hill, N.C. Once written into law, North Carolina's ban against Communists' speaking on state campuses has been hard to get rid of, and so controversial as to hinder calm discussion. Even the legislator who introduced the "speaker-ban" bill, which was hurriedly passed without hearings in June of 1963, seems to have conceded that all of its consequences were not foreseen and that the manner of its enactment was imprudent.

The speaker ban, which poses an imminent threat to the University of North Carolina's accreditation, has become a rallying point for superpatriots and ultraconservatives. Moreover, a good many people who are neither patriotic zealots nor members of the John Birch Society find it hard to understand why a law banning Communist speakers from the campus should be repealed. And any legislator seeking to explain why may find himself exposed to right-wing attack.

When Governor Dan Moore began counting votes in the General Assembly