

facilities construction will be an offsetting factor permitting an increase in support of extramural and intramural research activities of more than \$93 million over fiscal year 1966.

A HEW memorandum prepared for a briefing of the press on the departmental budget noted a "higher priority given in the HEW budget generally to new facilities for the education and training of manpower in health and other fields. In keeping with this policy, NIH will, within the \$15 million remaining in the budget for support of health research facilities, give emphasis to the development of enlarged medical schools."

Some \$43 million has been requested for the Regional Heart, Stroke, and Cancer Medical Centers, about half the \$90 million authorized by Congress for fiscal 1967. The request would seem to represent a go-slow decision on a program which has had a troubled infancy (*Science*, 15 Oct. 1965).

For all the categorical NIH institutes, the new budget provides increases, but these can fairly be described as moderate ones. The rate of increase in funds for research has leveled off at NIH in late years, although there have been surges ahead in a few categories, such as mental health. There has been a period of administrative reorganization and consolidation out in Bethesda, and the coming year was looked to by many as a time for a big advance in funding. While Congress may well top the budget requests, chances for major increases would appear to be slim.

For control of water pollution, a big increment of \$120 million is being asked. This would bring total federal funds for pollution control to \$307 million. About half the total would be for construction grants for waste-treatment plants. Other funds go into research on control of pollution caused by acid mine drainage and toward more effective treatment of sewage wastes and stepped-up planning on pollution control in river basins.

Outside PHS, one of the largest proportional increases to a science-based agency will go to the Food and Drug Administration. FDA is slated to receive an increase in funds of \$9 million, to bring its fiscal 1967 budget to \$68 million. The agency is one which is regarded as in the process of overhaul. According to the HEW briefing memorandum, "In the main these funds will be directed to (1) review of new drugs for safety and efficiency, (2) the

## Washington University Chosen for New PHS Program

Washington University, St. Louis, is the first grant recipient in a new Public Health Service program to support university institutes for environmental health research. With the aid of a \$4.25 million grant extending over 7 years, the university is establishing a facility to be known as the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems, to "seek new approaches in basic science toward solving the increasingly urgent problems of environmental health." Barry Commoner, chairman of the school's botany department, is the director.

The center's approach will be to study at a fundamental level the complex natural systems that effect human health. Emphasis will be on interdisciplinary collaboration.

The center will involve the university, the Missouri Botanical (Shaw's) Garden, and the St. Louis Zoo. The faculty will be composed of senior fellows drawn from the staffs of the departments of botany, chemistry, computer mathematics, environmental engineering, physics, preventive medicine, and zoology. Practicing environmental health scientists will be invited to participate in the program as visiting fellows for various periods, both to help the center get the specialist's viewpoint, and to help the visitors gain an overall view of the basic science approach.

In conjunction with the research, a training program will be offered as a regular part of the university's graduate program. Pre- and postdoctoral fellowships are available for the coming academic year beginning in September. Predoctorals are \$3000 to \$3600 for 12 months, plus tuition waiver; postdoctorals are \$5000 to \$6000 for the year. Both provide dependent allowances. Applications should be made by 15 March directly to one of the participating departments. Students will retain their original departmental affiliation and must meet the regular degree requirements. Those interested in the center will also apply for admission as junior fellows.—M.K.Z.

control of barbiturates and amphetamines under the Drug Abuse Act of 1965, and (3) increased inspection of food and drug imports."

For oceanography, obligations under the new budget would rise from \$178.2 in the current fiscal year to \$219.9 for next year. The major portion of the increase would be accounted for by a boost in funds for Defense Department oceanographic programs, which would go up from \$80.5 to \$113.4 million. Funds for oceanographic research would apparently remain about the same in the new budget, but Defense would spend more on surveys and on "ocean engineering," particularly, it appears, on a nuclear-powered submarine and deep-submergence vehicles.

The Interior Department's Office of Saline Water received another proportionally large annual boost, with \$30.9 million requested in new obligational authority, compared with \$23.1 million in the current fiscal year.

Funds for research in the atmospheric sciences are scheduled to increase from \$224.1 to \$234.6 million.

More emphasis this year would be put into weather modification studies financed by the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation, the National Science Foundation, and the new Environmental Science Services Administration in the Department of Commerce.

The Atomic Energy Commission, which has been a big spender on R&D programs, also fared comparatively well this year. None of the AEC's major research, education, or "peaceful uses" programs were cut, and funds for research and construction were increased (see Tables 2 and 4). An item of \$2.2 million is earmarked for continued studies on the 200-Bev accelerator which has attracted such covetous attention from the scientific community. The money will be spent for studies mostly at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory and to pay the expenses involved in selecting a site. President Johnson noted in his budget message that design funds will be requested once the site is chosen, presumably this year.

For the National Science Foundation, the new budget recommends a sub-