The Magnuson bill would authorize the Secretary of Commerce to initiate studies through the Federal Council for Science and Technology on interagency coordination in the field of weather modification and to make recomendations to other agencies. Within a year after the bill's enactment, the Secretary would be expected to ask Congress for whatever additional legislation was needed to insure interagency coordination. Moreover, the Commerce Department would be the agency to regulate commercial weather modification activities which interfere with the federal program.

Clearly, the department would be what in government parlance is called the "lead agency." It might seem to some, however, that, under the Magnuson bill, Commerce would be not much more dominant than Interior would be under the Anderson bill. Thomas Bates, Interior's science advisor, does not share that view. "We don't need a lead agency for the atmosphere any more than we need one for the land," he said recently. In his judgment the program proposed by Senator Anderson would give Interior a dominant position in weather modification only if Congress neglected those aspects of the field not concerned with water resources.

The Magnuson bill may have been fortunate enough to have caught a distinctly favorable tide. Reports circulate, and are given credence by some responsible officials, to the effect that executive reorganization legislation to be proposed by President Johnson will include a provision which, like the Magnuson bill, would transfer from NSF to ESSA responsibility for initiating programs of applied research in weather modification.

Furthermore, the National Academy of Sciences panel report, like the NSF commission report, seemed to favor ESSA as the lead agency for weather modification. The panel said the practice of dividing up the environmental sciences according to the diverse purposes of federal agencies has been rendered "obsolete by the increased interdependence among the various areas of environmental research and engineering."

In addition, no other agency rivals ESSA with respect to competence in the atmospheric sciences. ESSA says that nearly 200 of its senior professional personnel are engaged in work having a bearing on weather modification, and that more than 40 of them are Ph.D.'s. By contrast, the Bureau of Reclamation has about a half dozen professionals of its own in the atmospheric sciences. Its weather modification work is done through contract or agreement with universities, private firms, and other government agencies, including the Weather Bureau.

The Interagency Committee for the Atmospheric Sciences (ICAS), which is chaired by Hollomon, will try to adopt a recommendation for presentation to the Federal Council for Science and Technology before the Commerce Committee's hearings are completed on 7 March. Bates represents the Interior Department on ICAS. Whether ICAS can reach any position, much less a unanimous one, in time for the hearings is uncertain.

Some qualified and disinterested observers believe, however, that the Magnuson and Anderson proposals can be compromised without violence to either. They observe that there is a great deal more to weather modification than the increasing of precipitation, which is what the Anderson bill is concerned with.

They suggest that the Interior Department might be given an enlarged role—though not nearly so large a one as Anderson has proposed—in the use of weather modification to enhance water supplies. This would be a concession to the argument that it is only reasonable to let the agency responsible for water resources in general continue to develop a capability for tapping the atmospheric water resources. Such a concession would still leave ESSA with vast possibilities, ranging from investi-

Harvard Economist To Head Institute for Advanced Study

The Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, has appointed Carl Kaysen to succeed J. Robert Oppenheimer as director, effective 1 July. Kaysen, 45, earned his doctorate at Harvard in 1947 and became a teaching fellow. By 1957 he had become a professor, and 3 years later he was appointed associate dean of the graduate school of public administration. On leave from Harvard from 1961 until 1963, he served in Washington as President Kennedy's Deputy Special Assistant for National Security Affairs. As an adviser to both the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, his efforts have centered around disarmament, the military budget and planning.

Oppenheimer, who is 61, announced last August that he planned to step down as director at the end of this academic year. He will remain at the institute as senior professor of theoretical physics, and will live in a house built for him by the board of trustees "as a token of our affection and gratitude."

Kaysen will be the fourth director of the Institute, which was founded in 1930. His predecessors include Abraham Flexner, an educator and one of the founders of the institute, who was director from 1930 to 1939. Frank Aydelotte, president of Swarthmore College for 19 years, directed the institute from 1939 to 1947, when Oppenheimer took over.

Kaysen's being a social scientist is not expected to cause changes in emphasis at the institute. About his new appointment, he says, "The growth of a good academic institute has to be a slow process. It has to grow from within. I don't plan to go there with any formed plans from without."

The Institute's permanent faculty has 13 members in historical studies, 10 mathematicians, and 5 persons in the natural sciences. In addition, there are about 100 temporary members, most of whom were invited for a year or two. The institute does not grant degrees, has no scheduled curricula or courses, and has no laboratories. Although it is near Princeton University, it has never been part of that institution.—M.K.Z.