

to complete unexpired portions of the normal 6-year term, were reappointed. The newly appointed members are Clifford M. Hardin, University of Nebraska; Charles F. Jones, Humble Oil; Thomas F. Jones, Jr., University of South Carolina; Joseph M. Reynolds, Louisiana State; Athelstan F. Spilhaus, University of Minnesota; and Richard H. Sullivan, Reed College. (The board, which elects its own officers, has chosen Philip Handler of Duke to succeed Walker as chairman, and Ralph W. Tyler of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, as vice chairman succeeding Handler.)

Another indication of change is Johnson's latest appointment to the five-member Atomic Energy Commis-

sion. When Mary Bunting resigned last year to return to the presidency of Radcliffe, it was reported that the White House wanted a woman to replace her, as part of the administration's efforts to elevate the professional status of women. The quest went on unsuccessfully for months, and then it was reported that a Negro or a Mexican-American was being sought—which inspired a staff member of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy to remark, "At least they're not playing the poverty angle." Last week the appointment of the AEC's first Negro commissioner was announced, Samuel M. Nabrit, president of Texas Southern University.

In making the NSF and AEC appointments, the President obviously did

not dip into the academic or scientific proletariat. Professionally, the appointees are all distinguished people. But their admission to the high councils demonstrates that new values and new geographic regions are now gaining strength. As noted here earlier, Cambridge representation on the 18-member PSAC has receded from a long-standing one-third down to one member. And the new appointments, as well as the administration's emphasis on using science rather than supporting science, also suggest that we are witnessing the slow but certain demolition of the unique enclave that a segment of the scientific enterprise carved out for itself in the period after World War II.

—D. S. GREENBERG

## Congress: A New Option for Addicts; a Look at LSD

The House of Representatives on 1 June passed a Narcotic Addict Rehabilitation Act, thus breaking its own habit of enacting strictly punitive legislation in the narcotics field.

Heart of the bill (H.R. 9176) is a provision which would enable addicts charged with federal crimes to elect, under certain circumstances, civil commitment to institutional treatment followed by a period of supervised after-care instead of facing trial and possible imprisonment on the criminal charges.

The bill has the most proper sort of legislative pedigree. Such a measure has been urged on Congress in two successive Presidential messages on crime and law enforcement. H.R. 9176 is an administration-blessed bill introduced by the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Emmanuel Celler (D-N.Y.). It follows the lines of statutes now in force in California and New York, which are the two most populous states and the states having the highest rates of narcotics addiction. Furthermore, the bill embodies one of the main recommendations of the President's Advisory Committee on Narcotic and Drug Abuse

(*Science*, 14 February 1964). The advisory committee's suggestions sounded mildly radical at the time the report was issued, but, more than most blue ribbon panels, the committee is proving to have been influential or at least prophetic.

The vote on final passage for H.R. 9176 in the House was an overwhelming 367 to 1 and indicated acceptance by the House of the reformist view that hope of progress in dealing with narcotic addicts lies in treating the addict as a medical problem rather than a criminal. The grounds of the debate were set when Rules Committee member Rep. J. Madden (D-Ind.) in introducing the debate said, "The problem of drug addiction involves medical, psychological and sociological factors as well as the aspect of criminality."

The debate, however, had a cautious, almost querulous, tone often detectable in Congress when the conventional wisdom is being challenged, especially when the matter lies in the poorly marked border zone between law and morality, where the guides of law and court decisions cannot be relied on. This uneasiness was reflected

in the action of the House in first rejecting, individually, two amendments on the first day of debate and then, on the second day, accepting the same amendments, one of which scrapped a main feature of the administration bill.

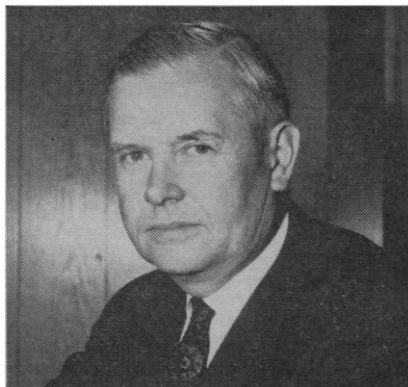
The doubts of some legislators were probably reflected, in the committee report on the measure, in minority views filed by five Republican members who said that one section of the bill "constitutes a congressional warrant to the judiciary directing an experimental excursion into uncertain sociological theories. The experiment is to be conducted at the expense of indispensable principles that those who shall commit crimes shall be brought to account."

What bothered the dissenters in this case was the section permitting a defendant to elect civil commitment rather than be prosecuted. The principle espoused in this section, the minority went on to say, was "that the individual is not really responsible for his acts—to society much less than himself—as long as he has indulged himself into dependence on narcotic drugs."

The section at issue was the bill's key Title I, which opens the possibility of civil commitment for an addict arrested on another federal charge. Robert T. Ashmore (D-S.C.), chairman of the subcommittee which handled the bill, argued that the bill provides for the "controlled rehabilitation of selected addicts." To be eligible for civil commitment the addict must not be accused of a crime of violence, must never have been convicted of such a crime in the past, and must not have



Samuel M. Nabrit



Gerald F. Tape

President Johnson last week named Samuel M. Nabrit and reappointed Gerald F. Tape to terms on the Atomic Energy Commission.

Nabrit, 61, will be the first Negro commissioner on the AEC; he succeeds Mary I. Bunting, who returned to the presidency of Radcliffe last year. He has been president of Texas Southern University for 11 years, was a member of the National Science Board from 1956 to 1962.

Tape, 51, was appointed to the AEC in 1963 to fill Leland Haworth's unexpired term. He was formerly president of Associated Universities, Inc., and before that had served 11 years as deputy director of Brookhaven National Laboratory.

had more than one felony conviction in the past. (The bill was amended on the floor to deny the civil commitment option to any seller or importer of narcotics). Two civil commitments will be the limit for addicts who relapse after release.

If eligible, the addict has 5 days to choose between standing trial or accepting civil commitment. In electing civil commitment he is voluntarily submitting himself to an examination under authority of the Surgeon General to determine whether he is likely to be rehabilitated. If he passes the test he will be civilly committed to the Surgeon General for treatment. Once the choice is made the addict may not voluntarily withdraw from the examination or treatment. Treatment may last up to 36 months. The individual is confined to an institution for intensive treatment for at least 6 months, and, after that, at the discretion of the Surgeon General he may be conditionally released for supervised aftercare treatment in the community.

If the Surgeon General certifies to the court that an individual has successfully completed the treatment, the original criminal charge will be dismissed. If during the 36-month period the Surgeon General determines that the individual cannot be successfully rehabilitated, or if the period ends with-

out the individual's receiving a favorable certification, the court will terminate the civil commitment and the individual will be prosecuted on the criminal charges.

Title II of the act follows the outlines of Title I but provides for what might be called "involuntary" commitment. Under this section an addict convicted of a federal offense may be sentenced to treatment for an indeterminate period of up to 10 years. This section appears to be designed mainly for addicts who do not elect civil commitment or are not chosen for it by the courts and are tried and convicted. The court may civilly commit a convicted addict only if adequate treatment facilities are available.

The third major section of the legislation (Title III) extends the indeterminate sentencing provisions of the Youth Corrections Act to marijuana offenders under the age of 26 (marijuana is covered by the same laws as "hard" narcotics such as cocaine and the opium derivatives). In effect, it makes parole privileges available to this group of offenders.

The brace of amendments passed on the second day of debate, just before passage of the bill, were offered by Representative Robert McClory (R-Ill.). In part the action seemed to be a reflex prompted by the deep congres-

sional antipathy to sellers of narcotics. The administration measure had provided for voluntary commitment of addicts charged with selling narcotics if such sales could be shown to be for the purpose of obtaining narcotics for themselves. The McClory amendment barred voluntary commitment of sellers under Title I, but created something of an anomaly since mandatory commitment of such offenders seems to be authorized under Title II. The second amendment denied narcotics offenders the benefits extended marijuana offenders under Title III.

The House, however, accepted the central and perhaps most controversial feature of the bill—the option of civil commitment before trial with the possibility that charges would be dismissed.

As it stands, the bill effects an important change in principle, but its practical effects are likely to be limited. Present methods of treating addicts are at best imperfect, and facilities are inadequate. Unless research on the problems of treatment and rehabilitation progresses more rapidly and services such as "halfway houses," aftercare, and help with job placement increase in quality and quantity, the rate of cure is sure to remain distressingly low. While this was discussed fairly thoroughly in the hearings on the bill, no money for follow-through measures was included in the measure.

A similar bill is now in the final stages of hearings in the Senate before a Judiciary Committee subcommittee headed by Senator Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.), and action on the legislation is expected before the end of the session.

Dodd, who was the sponsor of the Drug Abuse Control Amendments passed last year (*Science*, 27 August 1965), is also conducting a series of hearings on problems relating to non-narcotic stimulants, depressants, and other psychotoxic drugs, particularly the so-called hallucinogenic or psychedelic drugs.

Of these, LSD-25 (*d*-lysergic acid diethylamide tartrate) is the best known. Psilocybin, an extract from a Mexican mushroom, and mescaline, which is extracted from a Mexican cactus called peyote, are other examples of the so-called mind-expanding drugs.

Discovered in 1938, LSD has been in fairly wide use as an experimental research drug in the United States for at least 10 years. The National Institute of Mental Health in the current year

is sponsoring some 30 projects involving LSD. But the notoriety of LSD, gained from reports of its use on college campuses, dates back only a few years, probably specifically to 1963 when Timothy Leary, a psychologist at Harvard and apostle of LSD, was dropped from the faculty after abuse of LSD by students was reported.

In April, Food and Drug Administration Commissioner James L. Goddard broadcast a letter to educational administrators warning of a "marked increase in the illegal use of hallucinogenic and stimulant drugs throughout the nation, particularly around educational institutions" and asking them to report any "instances of the illegal use or possession of [hallucinogenics] or sleep-delaying drugs such as the amphetamines."

FDA is the agency responsible for administering the new drug-abuse amendments. Two classes of the undercover agents newly authorized to deal with the illegal traffic in barbiturates, amphetamines, and hallucinogenics have just been graduated.

The new controls on dangerous drugs apply to manufacture and distribution. Possession of such drugs is not an offense, as it is in the case of hard narcotics. Abuse of barbiturates and amphetamines requires comparatively large (and bulky) supplies of pills, and some congressional and agency officials feel that the new laws will be more effective in respect to these drugs than to the hallucinogenics. A little LSD goes a long way. The FDA estimates that as little as 100 micrograms can produce hallucinations in the individual lasting for hours or days. One gram could provide 10,000 doses. Therefore the Dodd subcommittee has been considering, among other things, making possession of hallucinogenics an offense.

Officials are disturbed because, in addition to LSD's being smuggled into the country or diverted from supplies for legal purposes, there have been reports that a significant amount is being produced by small synthesizing operations in college chemistry laboratories.

Use of psychedelic drugs was incorporated in the mystique of self-exploration and experimental morality in part taken over from the "beats" of the 1950's by the "alienated" youth of the 1960's. Since the alienated are university-oriented, the prospect of FDA agents raiding chemistry labs for homebrew LSD has obviously disturbing implications.

Congressional recognition of the multiplying social ramifications of the abuse of LSD and other drugs is indicated by the appearance before the Dodd subcommittee of Leary and, last week, of poet Allen Ginsberg, who has been called the Thomas De Quincey of psychedelic drugs. The poet and the senators continued to operate on different wavelengths, but the not unfriendly confrontation reflected a congressional attempt to understand the new problems about which it is legislating.

Before and after World War II the major legislative battles over domestic legislation involved economic questions. In recent years, welfare and education, civil rights and civil liberties have figured more prominently. Wiretapping, the use of the polygraph, and personality testing, for example, have engaged the attention of Congress. Such issues touching the "freedom of the human personality" as laws dealing with abortion and homosexuality have not burst into the legislative arena as they have in other Western countries, but it may not be long before they do.

A decade ago most legislators would have shunned any discussion of legislation on birth control. President Eisenhower late in his administration clearly labeled it a subject inappropriate for federal policy action. Yet, now, assistance to local birth control programs is being given through the Poverty program, and the Food for Peace bill, which recently passed the House, for the first time explicitly permits foreign currency paid for American food aid to be used to finance birth control programs in the recipient country.

In many of these areas there has been an interaction between the advance of technology and the alteration of public opinion. And, as in the case of treatment of narcotic addicts, reformers almost automatically invoke the support of scientific opinion. In testifying before the Senate subcommittee in behalf of the addict rehabilitation bill, for example, Attorney General Nicholas de B. Katzenbach asked, "How much longer will we allow our crime rate to be fueled by laws that lag years behind medical research?"

Congress no doubt was impressed more by the statistics showing that, in handling addicts, present methods are perhaps 95 percent ineffective, but the legislators also appreciate being able to cite scientific authority in support of change.

Congressmen and senators are accustomed to talking to agency heads

and other top governmental administrators, representatives of interest groups, and other men of organizational distinction at their hearings. When science and morality are involved, the legislators are finding it helpful to tap a wider sample of opinion. And while poets may continue to be rarities at hearings on Capitol Hill, scientists are likely to be called more often as expert witnesses.—JOHN WALSH

## **Announcements**

Five Philadelphia medical schools have chartered a corporation, Federated Medical Resources, to establish a **laboratory animal center**. The corporation plans to buy a 156-acre farm in Honey Brook Township and to build a "model community" to demonstrate "proper housing and care of many animal species." In addition, special strains will be bred, and many animals sent elsewhere for research will be returned to the center for short- or long-term observation. The participating institutions are Hahnemann and Jefferson medical colleges, Temple University health sciences center, the University of Pennsylvania medical affairs division, and the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

## **Grants, Fellowships, and Awards**

Competition is open for **U.S. government scholarships** offered under terms of the Fulbright-Hays Act for the 1967-1968 academic year. Graduate awards are available for academic work or research (as well as for professional training in the creative and performing arts) in more than 50 foreign nations. Candidates should have the bachelor's degree or its equivalent by the beginning date of the grant, and in most cases should be proficient in the language of the host country. Candidates in medical fields should have the M.D. by the time they apply. Applicants should be U.S. citizens; preference will be given to those who are under 35 years old and who have had no prior opportunity for extended study or residence abroad. The types of award are: full grants of tuition, maintenance, transportation, health and accident insurance, and allowance for incidentals; and travel grants to supplement scholarship aid from other sources.

The competition is conducted for the government by the Institute of Inter-