project, in a western city, designed to produce "nurse-practitioners." The Public Health Service not only failed to fund the project; it also kept the applicant waiting for about a year and neglected to inform the officials that their will had not been done. Department-level Secretaries such as Gardner has proposed would still have to contend with the distaste for invention and with the rigidity that characterizes the old-line agencies, but they would have considerably more authority and prestige with which to do so.

Another factor influencing the reorganization plan is Gardner's conviction that the Department should remain unified. The proposal for a tripartite arrangement is, in fact, partly designed to undercut the critics and pressure groups—most notably professionals in health and education—who have been seeking separate cabinet-level status for their specialties. Gardner believes the department can better attend to its mission (which he has frequently described as concern for "human resources") as it is; his plan is something of a compromise that would give the professions more visible status without increasing the fragmentation he is trying to curtail. In this, he is supported by the recommendation of the most recent congressional subcommittee to study HEW, a special subcommittee, of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, headed by Paul Rogers (D–Florida), which investigated the Department during the last session. The subcommittee addressed itself chiefly to health matters. Its report,* published last month, recommended the creation of a separate Department of Health, but advocated retention of the new agency within the overall HEW framework. "While there is certainly much to be said in favor of the various proposals which have been put forward from time to time for a separate Cabinet-level Department of Health," the committee concluded, "[we do] not feel that efficient administration and effective leadership for Federal health activity require the setting up of an independent Department for this purpose."

More than Housekeeping

The fragmentation to which the HEW reorganization plan is addressed involves more than bureaucratic inconvenience: it is a matter which, particularly in the field of health, actively interferes with the delivery of services to the public. Testifying before the Rogers subcommittee last spring, Rhode Island Governor John Chafee described some of the practical consequences of the present arrangements:

> Let us take the case of a 15-year-old boy on aid to dependent children who has a hearing problem that can be corrected. My natural response, as I am sure yours is too, would be "correct his hearing." However, confusion arises when one considers whether he should be referred to the public assistance medical care program administered by the Department of Social Welfare, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation administered by the Department of Education, or to the crippled children's program administered by the Department of Health. Under such conditions there is the temptation—and I must say this is a very real one—to refer such a patient not to the program which is best organized to meet his particular need, but to the program in which the State obtains the best financial advantage. The Federal government will pay 50 percent of the cost when the care is provided by the Crippled Children's Division; it will pay 56 percent under title XIX since he is on aid to dependent children; and, if he is cared for by vocational rehabilitation, the Federal Government will soon pay 75 percent of the bill. Each of these programs has some variations in standards for eligibility but nonetheless the differences in Federal reimbursement seem extremely puzzling.

An end to the confusion described by Chafee will require more than desk-shifting in a federal office building. The problem is not simply that the apparatus is unwieldy but that the government's commitment to the provision of services—at least in the field of health—has been uncertain. Programs exist in amplitude, but little effort has been expended to encourage people to use them or to make their use seem desirable. For Gardner's hopes for an effective department to be realized, policies as well as titles will have to change.

Details of the reorganization plan remain to be worked out, but HEW spokesmen say it should be ready for submission to Congress within the first few months of the new session.

—ELINOR LANGER

* Entitled "Investigation of HEW," it is perhaps the most comprehensive and lucid study of the Department to have been made in some time. Limited numbers are available without charge from the U.S. House of Representatives, Documents Room, Washington 25, D.C.

The Smithsonian: More Museums in Slums, More Slums in Museums?

"To be creative in the arts or sciences we must retain the direct apprehension of the environment, the external world."—S. DILLON RIPLEY, *Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution*

Museums are conservative institutions. Their curators tend to be cautious men who preserve those objects which look attractive on display and which do not greatly offend the public.

For instance, in one of the nonpermanent exhibition halls at the Smithsonian's Museum of History and Technology, the visitor can now see a display of Victorian needlework. In the permanent section devoted to portraying the American past, he will find an ornate room containing the 19th-century library of a president of the Philadelphia National Bank with the notation that such a private library has been "a mark of gentility" in America since the 17th century. A little farther on is the sweet-smelling Georgetown confectionary shop which, the sign explains, was "patronized regularly by genteel Georgetown families." There are other displays, such as a Western frontier ranch kitchen and a Delaware farm house, which are not "genteel"; but, while simple, such exhibits are scrupulously neat and clean. The museum displays no slums.

Not yet, anyway. But the idea of building a slum in the Smithsonian is now being discussed in that organization. In a recent interview with *Science*, S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, said that he found the proposed slum "a very interesting idea" but indicated that no final decision has been made. When Ripley was told that building such a slum would create a great stir in the museum world, he replied, "I'm all for doing that."

Discussing the building of slums in

the Smithsonian seems somewhat out of place in Ripley's plush office. After he became Secretary of the Smithsonian in 1964, Ripley ordered his office restored to furnishings of 19th-century luxury, a move which suits the Victorian "castle" in which the headquarters of the Smithsonian are housed. To visit Ripley one crosses thick carpets to a room where the harsh realities of an industrial, urban world seem never to have penetrated.

Ripley's own well-tailored appearance harmonizes with the gracious decoration of his office. An active ornithologist who directed the Peabody Museum of National History at Yale before coming to the Smithsonian, he is clearly a cultured, and urbane man. Ripley exudes an air of dashing gentility; he is not the type one would choose to lead a "slumming" expedition.

For all his refinement of manner, Ripley is an active-minded man who has assembled a group of intellectually energetic aides. One of these is Charles Blitzer, the Smithsonian's director of education and training. The soft-spoken Blitzer, a former professor and executive associate of the American Council of Learned Societies, no more looks like an earthy exponent of slum preservation than does Ripley. But if a slum is built in the Smithsonian, it is Blitzer who can claim credit for the idea.

Blitzer makes it clear that he thinks it would be a mistake to turn museums into "chambers of horror," but at the same time he thinks that history museums have a scholarly responsibility to attempt to show the reality of life. "The display of the best of the past characterizes our museums," he said in an interview, "but the best of the past is not the way it really was."

"It's the nasty side of life that we're in danger of losing today," Blitzer said, as he explained why he wants museums to give more attention to portraying the human conditions that prevailed when the artifacts on exhibit were in use. "If you go over to the Museum of History and Technology you will see all these beautiful, gleaming machines looking like they begat the later machines," Blitzer noted. "The whole beautiful display gives the impression that these machines were run by people who were wearing white gloves."

"The railroad-flat slum is more important in the development of America than the log cabin is," Blitzer argues, as he explains his preference for "more dirt, grease, and noise" in museums.

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **EXCHANGE STUDENT ENROLLMENT**: A record number of college and university students, teachers, and scholars participated in educational exchange programs between the United States and other countries last year, according to *Open Doors 1966*, the annual census of the Institute of International Education. Individuals involved in exchange during the academic year 1965–66 totaled 125,000, up from 113,000 last year. Excluded from the study are 11,000 foreign students who said they intended to remain in the United States. (Data on these students is not included because a foreign student traditionally is defined as a person who comes to this country expressly for an education and states his intention of returning home afterward.) For the third consecutive year, the number of incoming foreign students was less than one-third of the total foreign student population, which leads to the assumption that the growth of the foreign student population in the United States during the past 3 years is due to the fact that students are staying here longer.

● **U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY**: The Navy, groping for a solution to the inherently difficult problem of giving faculty members a voice in the affairs of a military institution (*Science*, 20 May), is trying out a newly established Academic Forum. The Forum is made up of 30 civilian faculty representatives who are elected within their departments and 28 officer faculty members who are appointed by the Academy Superintendent, Rear Admiral Draper L. Kauffman. The superintendent is the Forum's permanent chairman. The first meeting of the Forum was held last month, and, among the civilian faculty representatives who attended, the attitude is said to be mixed. Some take an optimistic view and believe the Forum will evolve into an effective faculty advisory body of the kind the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors recommended last spring. However, a number are afraid that the Forum, though meant to permit frank and open discussion of Academy policies, will provide no means by which the faculty, as a group, can develop and articulate policy positions.

● **CLARK UNIVERSITY**: Rudolph F. Nunnemacher, chairman of the biology department at Clark University, has resigned as chairman of the faculty Premedical Advisory Committee at the request of University president, Howard B. Jefferson. Nunnemacher informed students that he would not recommend them for graduate school if they demonstrated against U.S. policy in Vietnam when Vice President Humphrey was on campus for a convocation on 12 October. Jefferson, commenting on Nunnemacher's resignation, said, ". . . in consideration of his stated unwillingness to provide recommendations to graduate and professional schools for students . . . I feel this action is imperative in order to assure the students that their chances for admission to professional schools will in no way be prejudiced because of their political views and activities or the attitude which Dr. Nunnemacher had taken with respect to them."

● **PEACE CORPS SUPPORTS RESEARCH**: The Peace Corps has announced a new program of fellowships for predoctoral and postdoctoral research in the social and behavioral sciences relating to Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The Peace Corps is particularly interested in studies of guided social change that would indicate what Peace Corps programs are accomplishing, and how they can be made more effective; studies designed to produce text and case materials that could be used in cross-cultural training for specific jobs in Peace Corps countries; and studies of volunteers who have terminated either in training or overseas that would improve the predictive capabilities of the Peace Corps selection process.

Service as a Peace Corps volunteer, or other overseas experience, is desirable but not a prerequisite for the program. Most of the researchers would conduct work in other countries, although study wholly within the United States would be possible. Living costs and travel expenses would be shared by the Peace Corps and the individual, by the Peace Corps and the university, or by both the individual and his institutions. Application should be made to Charles Peters, Peace Corps, Washington, D.C. 20525.

"We should show people things that they normally couldn't see," he emphasized.

If a slum is built, it will provide an experience new to many of the middle-class visitors to the Smithsonian. "In our slum," Blitzer explained, "I hope that we can have rats living in the walls, that we can build the slum near the edge of the building so that it can be hot in the summer and cold in the winter, and that we can synthesize the smells of the slum.

"God knows, if we have a slum, it will offend every sense!" Blitzer exclaimed. Such an exhibit would fulfill one of Ripley's main requests to his museums: "I've been urging that they put 'smellies' and 'feelies' into our museums," Ripley noted.

There are certainly officials in the Smithsonian who would look askance at the building of a slum in their hallowed halls. Blitzer is quick to say that he has no control over the Smithsonian's exhibits, but he thinks the slum could be easily constructed once the decision was made. "We have the most impressive skills in our exhibits department," he explains. "If we said to them, 'build us a slum,' they would build us the most realistic slum that you could imagine."

Neighborhood Museums

Ripley has previously displayed a taste for the unconventional in museum-keeping by his strong backing of the idea that the Smithsonian operate a trial museum in a lower-income neighborhood in Washington. Ripley is actively seeking money for his first Smithsonian neighborhood museum, which is expected to open next spring. "I realize that it may fail and that everyone may laugh at us for trying it," Ripley said, "but I don't care. We're just going to go ahead and do it."

The site for the Washington neighborhood museum has not been chosen, but Ripley thinks it might be put "near a laundromat where people could come in easily while they were waiting." Ripley's desire to build a neighborhood museum stems not only from a desire for novelty but also from extensive thought about what purposes museums can serve.

For Ripley, an opportunity to see the objects displayed in museums can provide a more profound comprehension of reality than one can obtain through the written word. But, as Ripley argued in a speech he gave last year on the 200th anniversary of the birth of James Smithson, the study of objects has now become less respectable academically than the study of the printed word. "It is paradoxical that most people would rather read about objects than study them directly," he noted. "The assumption that truth can be learned, second-hand, by reading what someone else has written is all-pervasive. It dominates our thinking. It forms the foundation stone of our system of education."

Ripley believes that all people can benefit from learning that museum objects are more than the "static by-products of past ages." Moreover, museums can be especially important to people who find it difficult to respond to educational and vocational systems which stress the printed word.

"More and more people are becoming deprived," Ripley said in an interview. "People with nonliterate skills are less and less appreciated in the schools or in occupations. In the schools, no one bothers to evoke in students nonliterate ways of sensing the world. People in turn tend not to develop their own potentialities. Museums have important pre-literate and sub-literate training functions for people, which are not sufficiently comprehended."

Museums can be especially relevant, Ripley said, for people who live in deprived areas, many of whom do not respond fully to traditional verbal methods of instruction. But now, these people rarely come to museums. "To go downtown to a museum they have to get all dressed up and move into an alien environment; they have a hostility toward such an experience."

The Smithsonian leadership hopes that participation in the activities of neighborhood museums will lead people to visit the collections of the main museums, and perhaps even to choose museum work as a career. Blitzer explained some of his thoughts about the neighborhood museum. "We can have a shared operation. In consultation with the people in the area, we can put in some things. The kids in the area can make their own exhibits." If the Washington neighborhood museum is successful, Blitzer expects the idea to spread: "If one works, we should have dozens of museums. Major museums in every city should sponsor their own neighborhood museums. We could help other museums do this in other cities, but we shouldn't do it for them."

The Smithsonian leaders are very sensitive to the fact that they can bring no direct pressure to bear on museums around the United States, but can only provide an example which other museums may or may not follow. There is some evidence, however, that the Smithsonian may want to become more relevant to the needs of the nation as a whole. As Blitzer noted, "If there is any museum with a national role, it is the Smithsonian."

Under Ripley's leadership the Smithsonian seems increasingly interested in breaking down the barriers between museums and the outside world. In the summers, the Smithsonian has been employing a sizable number of students from low-income areas in Washington, and it has conducted seminars on use of the museum collections for teachers from these areas. Blitzer is trying to devise ways to bring more students into direct contact with the researchers at the Smithsonian. Ripley is seeking capable people in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities who are willing to do their research is a museum framework; he regrets that he has not found more scholars interested in museum-affiliated research. Blitzer summed up the problem in these terms: "The danger is that museums become isolated, inward-looking, and cut off from people."

Under imaginative leadership the Smithsonian can accomplish a great deal, despite a budget which is relatively small in comparison to that of other science-oriented government agencies. The Institution is not hampered by being required to fulfill a rigidly prescribed mission, and it is given a fairly free rein by Congress and the administration. The Smithsonian also possesses private sources of funds to supplement the money it receives from the U.S. government.

In a speech last year Ripley defined the mission of the Smithsonian in the following words: "If the Smithsonian Institution has a motto, aside from the enigmatic and Sibylline 'increase and diffusion of knowledge among men,' it should be *the pursuit of the unfashionable by the unconventional.*" (The emphasis is Ripley's.) In terms of subsidy of research, educational activities, and the use of its museums, the Smithsonian gives signs of becoming a truly unusual organization during Ripley's tenure. All will agree that Ripley is fashioning an unconventional institution on the day when those slum odors first shock the sensitivities of visitors to the Smithsonian.—BRYCE NELSON