

One of the latter, George Reedy, head of a small research and development firm in Washington, was Johnson's first and perhaps most harried press secretary. A long-time friend and associate of the President, Reedy possibly will give the commission an informal line of communication to Johnson. Four members of Congress, including the chief sponsors of the marine act, Senator Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.) and Representative Alton Lennon (D-N.C.) will sit on the commission as advisory members.

For most, if not all, of the commission members\* oceanography is not a new interest. For example, John H. Perry, besides being a Florida publisher, is a manufacturer of small submarines. James Crutchfield, University of Washington economist, is a co-author of a sharply critical analysis of the National Academy of Sciences' 1964 report "Economic Benefits from Oceanographic Research."

Some of oceanography's "old hands"—leading scientific and technical people who in the past have figured prominently in public discussion of marine science and technology—appear skeptical about the commission's chances of making a large and significant contribution to the shaping of the government oceanographic establishment. It seems, in fact, impossible to avoid the conclusion that the commission runs a risk of being not much more than a minor advisory appendage to the marine council. The council, or at least its chairman and staff, had a major part in screening prospective commission members. Moreover, it will be through the council that the commission's re-

port is transmitted to the President. The council, served by a professional staff of 13, began its work in August and now has a half-year head start on the commission. Catching up may not be easy inasmuch as the commission, with a professional staff of only three, expects to meet just two days a month during the 18-month period allowed it by law for its work. The commission will share quarters with the council and will work with it intimately.

Among the old hands there is concern that the highest level of expertise in ocean science and engineering is not adequately represented on the commission, even though its chairman is a physicist and academic administrator of distinction and its other members are people of achievement. From this viewpoint, the commission study would promise greater results if, through a better selection of members, it were linked more closely to previous study efforts, such as that completed last year by the President's Science Advisory Committee's oceanography panel (*Science*, 22 July 1966). The PSAC panel, chaired by Gordon J. F. MacDonald, U.C.L.A. physicist now on leave to serve as vice president for research at the Institute for Defense Analyses, recommended the establishment of a new environmental science agency which would administer most of the government's nonmilitary activities in oceanography.

The Stratton commission will seek the advice of scientists, such as MacDonald, who have pondered the question of the government's responsibilities and opportunities in marine science and engineering, and of leading oceanographers at universities and at institutions such as Scripps and Woods Hole. "It may take them 18 months just to educate themselves," one of oceanography's elder statesmen observes, however. "I think they're going to have an awfully hard time."

Within the administration the commission is extolled as a new group free of bias and precommitments. Indeed, the omission of the old hands is conspicuous enough for some to surmise that it was deliberate. But the chief considerations underlying the makeup of the new body appear to have been a desire for geographic balance and, especially, the necessity of meeting Congress's requirement that academic, industrial, and governmental (both state and federal) circles all be represented. It was felt, moreover, that the academicians appointed should be

drawn not just from science and engineering but also from other relevant disciplines, such as law and economics.

However the commission performs, the President is likely to need some competent advice, other than that which Humphrey's council will provide, on the question of the most appropriate governmental structure for oceanography. The new agency envisaged by the PSAC panel would represent mainly a pulling together of the Commerce Department's Environmental Science Services Administration (ESSA) and the Interior Department's Geological Survey, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, and Bureau of Mines. Proposals of this kind (for which the President's as yet not fully disclosed plan to merge the Commerce and Labor departments possibly will have important implications) automatically stir bureaucratic rivalries. No doubt the President would find it helpful to have the views of a qualified panel made up largely of nonbureaucrats.

Some 18 months hence one perhaps will learn whether the Stratton commission has risen to the challenge or has simply confirmed the cynical view that the true role of government advisory bodies is to support whatever views are arrived at by those responsible for their appointment.

—LUTHER J. CARTER

## Announcements

The four schools that comprise Joint Oceanographic Institutions Deep Earth Sampling (JOIDES) invite planning advice for a **deep drilling program** scheduled to start early in 1968. The project is designed to obtain samples of earth sediment and shallow core at depths ranging to 20,000 feet in the Atlantic and Pacific. Data and materials produced will be available to scientists, providing that their studies are published promptly. The project will be conducted under an 18-month contract from the National Science Foundation to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, operator for JOIDES; the other sponsoring institutions are the Institute of Marine Science, University of Miami; Lamont Geological Observatory, Columbia University; and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Additional information is available from the executive secretary of JOIDES, J. H. Stanbrough, Jr., of Woods Hole.

\*Members are Julius A. Stratton (chairman), chairman of the Ford Foundation; Richard A. Geyer (vice chairman), head of the oceanography department, Texas A & M; David Adams, chief of commercial and sports fisheries, State of North Carolina; John H. Perry, of Palm Springs, Florida, president of Perry Publications in Florida; Taylor Pryor, founder of Hawaii Oceanic Foundation; Jacob Blaustein, of Baltimore, a co-founder of the American Oil Company and a former U.S. delegate to the United Nations; James Crutchfield, University of Washington economics professor; Leon Jaworski, a Houston, Texas, attorney; John A. Knauss, director of the Narragansett Marine Laboratory at the University of Rhode Island; George Reedy, former presidential press secretary and now president of Struthers Research and Development Corporation of Washington, D.C.; Carl Auerbach, professor of international law, University of Minnesota; George H. Sullivan, director of life sciences for the Northrop Corporation in California; Robert H. B. Baldwin, Undersecretary of the Navy; Frank C. Diluzio, Assistant Secretary of Interior for water pollution control; and Robert M. White, administrator of the Environmental Science Services Administration. Four members of Congress will serve as advisory members: Senators Warren G. Magnuson of Washington and Norris Cotton of New Hampshire, and Representatives Alton Lennon of North Carolina and Charles A. Mosher of Ohio.