

Project Themis: More Research Dollars for the Have-Nots

"Project Themis," announced on 19 January by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, is another of the tangible signs that the Johnson administration is serious about spreading the blessings of the federal research dollar. Themis, for which \$20 million has been provided for fiscal 1967, is designed to establish "new academic centers of excellence in research areas important to the [Defense] Department's long-range scientific and technological goals."

To discover Project Themis' inspiration one need only look back to a presidential directive of September 1965. President Johnson called for federal agencies to be more attentive to the aspirations of the have-not institutions, and he also indicated that, in dispensing research money, the agencies should give university administrations more responsibility for overseeing the research.

In initiating Project Themis—Themis was the legendary Greek goddess of law and harmony of physical phenomena—the Defense Department has sent brochures to more than 400 universities. Its hope is to encourage the establishment of as many as 50 new interdisciplinary centers this year.

The research areas in which investigations are desired involve the physical, engineering, environmental, medical, social, and behavioral sciences. Some specific problems—such as surveillance, navigation and control, information processing, and military-vehicle technology—have been singled out for each of the research areas mentioned.

First consideration will be given to proposals from institutions "not already heavily involved in defense research." John S. Foster, director of defense research and engineering, says, "Through Project Themis, the Department of Defense is attempting to strengthen the nation's universities, increase the number of institutions performing research of high quality, achieve a wider geographic distribution of research funds, and thus enhance the United States's academic capability in science and technology."

In order to be considered for support, a proposal must have the explicit endorsement of the head of the institution,

which must be one granting the Ph.D. degree in science or engineering. Moreover, the proposal must be accompanied by an explanation of how it fits into long-term plans for the institution's development. Research will be supported, the departmental brochure explains, on a "program basis, not through the separate, small contracts and grants typical of much federally supported research at academic institutions."

"This implies," the brochure says, "the support of a group or cluster of related research tasks—in many cases involving different disciplines—chosen to produce a coherent attack on several facets of a major scientific or engineering problem." These research groups or centers are expected eventually to attain a "critical size," defined as about 8 to 10 faculty members and 16 to 20 students.

In congressional testimony last year, Donald M. MacArthur, deputy director for research and technology, Defense Research and Engineering, said each of the centers will require about \$200,000 in federal funds a year once they are well established. He said that, under the budget projected for Themis, it would grow to a \$45-million-a-year program in 5 years. Themis will be managed by Edward M. Reilley, MacArthur's assistant for research. Reilley, a career civil servant, holds a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Pittsburgh. His new deputy is Robert E. Uhrig, who is taking a year's leave of absence from the University of Florida where he is chairman of the Department of Nuclear Engineering Sciences.

—LUTHER J. CARTER

Appointments

Lincoln Gordon, assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs, to president of The Johns Hopkins University. He succeeds Milton S. Eisenhower. . . . **Burton C. Hallowell**, executive vice president of Wesleyan University, to president of Tufts University. He succeeds Leonard C. Mead, acting president since the resignation of Nils

Y. Wessell on 1 September. . . . **Detlev W. Bronk**, president of Rockefeller University, to the council of the American Geographical Society. (Also named recipient of the 1967 Benjamin Franklin Medal by the Royal Society of Arts in recognition of work toward British-American understanding.) . . . **Oleg Jardetzky**, member of the Department of Pharmacology, Harvard Medical School, to director of the newly created Department of Biophysics and Pharmacology at the recently dedicated Research Laboratories of Merck, Sharp & Dohme, Rahway, N.J. . . . **Marcus D. Kogel**, dean of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, to Vice President for Medical Affairs and Science of Yeshiva. . . . **Mahlon B. Hoagland**, associate professor of bacteriology and immunology at Harvard Medical School, to professor and chairman of the Department of Biochemistry. . . . **Elmer R. Pfefferkorn**, Silas Arnold Houghton Assistant Professor of Bacteriology at Harvard Medical School, to associate professor of microbiology.

Recent Deaths

William E. Boesch, 63; retired division chief of the Systems Maintenance Service of the Federal Aviation Agency, and a pioneer in foul-weather aircraft navigation equipment; 9 January.

Frederick M. Feiker, 85; retired dean of the George Washington University School of Engineering and a former Assistant Secretary of Commerce; 13 January.

Carl E. Howe, 68; retired chairman of the Department of Physics, Oberlin College; 1 August.

James Martin, 74; professor emeritus of plant pathology at the University of California, Berkeley; 5 January.

Erwin E. Nelson, 75; former head of the Department of Pharmacology at St. Louis University Medical School and of the Department of Pharmacology of Tulane Medical School, also former medical director of FDA; 29 December.

Boris Podolsky, 70; research professor of theoretical physics at Xavier University; 28 November.

Marvin H. Rowe, 41; physicist at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory in White Oak, Maryland; 12 January.

George Smeltz, 83; former chairman of the psychiatry department at the University of Pittsburgh's Medical School; 4 January.

George P. Walton, 78; retired research chemist for the Department of Agriculture; 1 January.