

sity for its infinitely larger development that I think our problem is actually one of whether there are forms for expression of the present form of the problem or even a recognition of it." But, when Wirtz came up against the question of whether he was for or against the Harris bill, "I just do not know enough about the structure in this field to answer in conclusive terms the questions of whether this is the best approach, the one reflected in this bill or not."

Wirtz was followed by Robert A. Levine, assistant director for Research Plans, Programs, and Evaluations in the Office of Economic Opportunity. Levine said there was need for some new national organization to stimulate research in the social sciences and to fill the gaps among the programs of mission-oriented agencies. But he said, "The question of whether the national body to which I have referred need be a separate National Social Science Foundation seems to me another somewhat separate issue and one to which I have no clearcut answer."

Levine offered the view that "A social science body functioning within the National Science Foundation seems to me more likely to be sympathetic with the more general overview of manpower problems." To which he added, "It would be tragic indeed if the prolongation of poverty in our society resulted from a poverty of imagination in developing a rational social science research policy."

At this point, Harris's temper appeared to wear thin. He asked Levine if he had "any reason to believe" that NSF might lessen its support for the social sciences if the NFSS came into existence. Levine started to answer, "I would imagine, Mr. Chairman, that if you . . .," but Harris broke in with, "[Do] not imagine. I am first asking you. You can imagine later but I am first asking you whether you have any reason to believe that that would be so." Levine said he had "Only theoretical reasons, conceptual reasons. I have no advanced feeling on the matter."

Next came Archibald S. Alexander, assistant director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. He said that a separate agency might improve the prestige of the social sciences, and he went on to state that Harris's bill ". . . is a possible means of accomplishing the purposes which you list in your act." But then he observed that "There are probably or possibly other methods of trying to see that there is more basic

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **TRAVEL GRANTS:** The National Science Foundation is accepting applications for grants to travel to the 19th International Congress of Linguists in Bucharest, Rumania, 28 August to 2 September 1967. Applications may be obtained from Richard W. Lieban, Program Director for Anthropology, NSF, 1800 G Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20550. Closing date for applications is 1 March and awards will be announced by 1 May.

● **CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE PETITION:** An end to the use of anticrop chemicals in Vietnam and a declaration against initiating the use of chemical and biological weapons was urged on President Johnson this week in a petition that was signed by 5000 scientists. Among the signatories were 17 Nobel laureates and 129 members of the National Academy of Sciences. The petition, which was initiated last September (*Science*, 23 September 1966), was delivered to Donald F. Hornig, special assistant to the president for science and technology. In the petition the scientists called the use of anticrop and nonlethal antipersonnel chemical weapons in Vietnam a "dangerous precedent." They also asked for a White House study of overall government policy regarding CB weapons and the possibility of arms control measures, with a view to maintaining and reinforcing the world-wide restraints against CB warfare. Presenting the petition were Matthew Meselson, Paul Doty, and John Edsall, all of Harvard University, and Irwin C. Gunsalus, of the University of Illinois, all among the originators of the petition.

● **ARGENTINE UNIVERSITIES:** *A Report to the American Academic Community on the Present Argentine University Situation* has been published by the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), a newly formed academic organization which investigated the Argentine university crisis. LASA, with the aid of the Ford Foundation and the National Academy of Sciences, sent a three-man fact-finding mission to Argentina shortly after the government withdrawal of university autonomy there. The reports of the group (Joseph Burnett, University of California; John P. Harrison, Univer-

sity of Texas; and George Waggoner, University of Kansas) are included in the booklet. LASA concludes that there has been a grave breach of academic freedom, that the national universities have been seriously weakened, particularly in the most advanced and professionally oriented sectors, and that the American academic community has a professional responsibility to take action, especially in offering assistance to Argentine professors and students who request it.

The pamphlet may be obtained from LASA, Provisional Secretariat, Hispanic Foundation, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

● **THE NEW FRESHMEN:** A sampling of about 20 percent of all 1966 college and university freshmen, taken by the American Council on Education (ACE), produced the following findings.

Background: 91 percent white; 60 percent Protestant; about 17 percent of fathers and 15 percent of mothers have college degrees; a little under half come from families with incomes of more than \$10,000 per year before taxes.

Financing of education: 15 percent list scholarships as major support for their first year and 58 percent parental aid; only 9 percent have any major financial worries.

Academic interests: more than half plan to take graduate or professional degrees; most popular major fields are business, 14 percent; education, 11 percent; engineering, 10 percent; physical and biological sciences, 7 percent; and mathematics, 4.5 percent; most popular probable occupations are educator, 22 percent, and businessmen, 11.6 percent; trailing were research scientist, 3.5 percent; and college professor, 2 percent.

The statistics are from the first report (*National Norms for Entering College Freshmen—Fall, 1966*, available for \$2 from the Office of Research, American Council on Education, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036) of an ACE project begun last year to assess the impact of the college environment on the student. Follow-up studies will be collected to evaluate changes which occur and what role the educational institution may have had in causing the changes.