

A "Scientific Luxury"

In the lay press, the New York Times has long been a leading advocate and defender of federal support for basic research. On 16 July, however, the Times departed from this pattern to question the advisability of proceeding at this time with the construction of the Weston accelerator. Leading off with an editorial on last week's riots in Newark, New Jersey, titled, "The Gravest Responsibility . . .," the Times followed with an editorial on the 200-Bev accelerator, titled ". . . Vs. Scientific Luxury." Following is that editorial:

Newark's grim reminder of the nation's real needs makes particularly abhorrent the porkbarrel politics that won out when the Senate voted to approve Weston, Illinois, as the site for what is scheduled to be this country's largest atom smasher. But credit goes to Senators Pastore, Javits, and their colleagues who exposed the real issues at stake, and who won a moral victory when the vote margin in Weston's favor proved much narrower than had been expected.

Much of the Senate debate centered properly around the open-housing issue and the failure of the relevant Illinois and local authorities to provide adequate assurance that Negroes will be able to get housing on a par with whites in the neighborhood of this giant machine. There were numerous towns and cities with appropriate housing regulations that would have been delighted to have the atom smasher.

But there is an even more basic objection to any commitments or expenditures for this expensive research tool at this time. That objection is simply the irrelevance of a 200 billion electron volt accelerator to any real present national problem. The nation is engaged in a bloody war in Vietnam; the streets of its cities are swept by riots born of anger over racial and economic inequities; millions of Americans lack proper housing, adequate medical care, and essential educational opportunity. The budget cutters are now in full cry demanding reductions in already inadequate expenditures for human needs. It is a distortion of the national priorities to commit many millions now to this interesting but unnecessary scientific luxury.

legislation." In a letter to Pastore earlier this month, he said, "Already we are facing serious recruitment problems resulting from the antagonism that has been displayed toward open-housing legislation and from the uncertainty and unpleasantness generated by the conspicuously negative manner in which the State Senate has treated this important problem."

In addition, the failure of Illinois to do much to promote equality of housing opportunity has done nothing to enhance its reputation in Washington. Also, despite the great furor over the Weston site, Illinois Negroes have little to show as yet for their civil rights efforts.

Perhaps the biggest loser in reputation is the Atomic Energy Commission. Both supporters and opponents of the Weston site think that the AEC bungled the civil rights as a factor in the place-

ment of the accelerator; others deplore the AEC's failure to live up to its announcement that the civil rights factor was relevant. In the debate, Pastore said: "The trouble with the AEC is that, when the issue got to be a hot potato, they dropped it . . . once this issue was raised by a federal agency, in my mind . . . to back off is unpardonable."

The struggle over the Illinois accelerator site seems destined to continue. Pastore sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee on Atomic Energy and can continue to work to delay funds for the accelerator until Illinois obtains adequate open-housing legislation. Emboldened by their show of Senate strength and by the ever-growing economic needs of the Vietnam war, the critics of the Illinois location have yet to give up their fight.

—BRYCE NELSON

APPOINTMENTS

Morton D. Pareira, surgeon-in-chief at the Jewish Hospital of St. Louis and professor of surgery at the Washington University School of Medicine, to full-time chairman of the division of surgery at Albert Einstein Medical Center, Philadelphia, and professor of surgery at Temple University School of Medicine. . . . **Dean W. Roberts**, executive director of the National Commission on Community Health Services, to director of the Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, the Division of Regional Medical Program, and also to professor of community medicine. . . . **John Y. Templeton, III**, director of the Division of Surgery, Pennsylvania Hospital, and professor of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, to Samuel D. Gross Professor of Surgery and head of the department of surgery, Jefferson Medical College, and attending surgeon-in-chief at Jefferson Hospital. . . . **Thomas J. King**, chairman of the embryology department, Institute for Cancer Research, to professor of biology, Georgetown University. . . . **G. Whitlock**, chairman of the department of anatomy, State University of New York Upstate Medical Center, to chairman of the department of anatomy, University of Colorado Medical School. . . . **Myron Kratzer**, director of the Division of International Affairs, Atomic Energy Commission, to assistant general manager for International Activities. . . . **Leslie Williams**, former deputy chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, England, to president of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, England. . . . **Dexter Hanley**, professor of law, Georgetown University, to adviser to the U.S. Delegation to the U.N. Economic and Social Council. . . . **Elmo R. Morgan**, a vice president of the University of California, and **S. Fred Singer**, dean of the School of Environmental and Planetary Sciences, University of Miami, to deputy assistant secretaries of the Interior for water pollution control. . . . **Frederick O. Diercks**, director of the U.S. Army Coastal Engineering Research Center, to associate director for aeronautical charting and cartography, ESSA-Coast and Geodetic Survey. . . . **Harold Margulies**, associate director of the Division of Internal Medical Education, Association of American Medical Colleges, to assistant director of the AMA's Division of Socio-Economic Activities.