

## Hitch Succeeds Kerr at U.C.

Charles J. Hitch, an economist who helped to launch the McNamara era at the Pentagon, has been elected president of the University of California, the nation's biggest state university system and probably its most embattled, politically and financially.

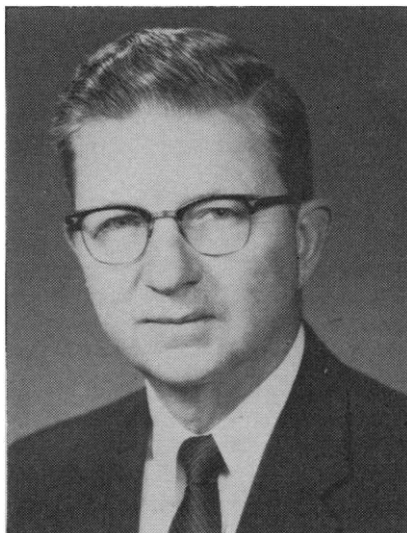
A University of California vice-president since September 1965, when he resigned as comptroller of the Department of Defense, Hitch will assume the presidency on 1 January 1968, succeeding Clark Kerr who was fired by the university regents on 20 January.

Hitch was nominated by a regents' committee after a national search and elected unanimously at a regents' meeting 22 September. California Governor Ronald Reagan, who had made a campaign issue of Clark Kerr's administration of the university, offered a mildly favorable comment on Hitch's election.

Close observers say the regents have been impressed by Hitch's quickly acquired grasp of university affairs, particularly its budgetary problems. Hitch went to U.C. as vice-president for business and finance, one of seven specialized vice-presidential posts. His rise in the hierarchy was marked last year in a reorganization, when he was made the vice-president for administration and was given general responsibility for nonacademic matters. After Kerr's departure, vice-president Harry Wellman became acting president, and Hitch, in effect, became number-two man in the university administration.

In his career, Hitch has mixed teaching as an Oxford don, government work, and an association of more than a decade with the RAND Corporation, the nonprofit, largely Air-Force-financed research organization. At RAND he developed the ideas expressed in *The Economics of Defense in the Nuclear Age*, written with Roland N. McKean, ideas which contributed significantly to the McNamara methodology of asserting control of military programs through the budgeting process.

Hitch's present reputation is that



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of a competent planner and financial manager rather than an educational statesman. If there is a feeling that Hitch is something of a "neutral" choice ideologically and politically, it is also pointed out that there is a trend at U.C. toward decentralization. More decisions directly affecting faculty and students are being made on the nine campuses, and action on high-level policy and financial decisions are being reserved for university administrative headquarters in Berkeley.

Hitch, nevertheless, inherits the explosive issues which led to Kerr's dismissal. The whole complex of problems which kindled the Free Speech Movement is unresolved, but Hitch faces an even more immediate challenge. The regents must deal with Governor Reagan's request for imposition of tuition fees. In some quarters in California, the principle of free higher education approaches a mystique. The outlook for increased state funds for the U.C. budget also looks doubtful. After a year in which the state contribution was cut to \$231 million from \$240 million the year before, the university is likely to ask the governor and the legislature for more than \$300 million. In the coming fight for the budget, U.C. will have in its corner a president with a peerless command of his subject—J.W.

manners nor in the best interest of relations between the two countries. Nor does it actually say much about Smale's courage, which is often cited by admirers. Since the Soviet cops could conceivably have given him something to think about, Smale rates some distinction for foolhardiness, but, once he was outside the Soviet Union, he was home free, personally and professionally, fully aware that anytime Berkeley or NSF did not want him he could comfortably come to rest in any one of a number of well-cushioned academic chairs that have repeatedly been offered him.

In any case, with Smale's present grant due to expire next March, he submitted a new application for support, this time seeking nearly \$250,000 to provide support—mostly for summer salaries, travel, and research assistance—for himself, as principal investigator, and an expanded research group. (Since Smale, like any other grant applicant, does not expect to get all he asks for, the great increase sought over the present \$91,500 grant reflects hope and a bargaining position rather than a vast burgeoning of activity.)

Following submission of the new application, Smale and his colleagues around the country kept the pot boiling by circulating reports that NSF was being unduly sticky about the administrative details of the proposed research project. NSF responded to inquiries by offering assurances that the Smale application was routinely working its way through the mill, just like any other application.

In fact, however, NSF could not have been more agitated if it found that Klaus Fuchs had been sitting in on its board meetings over the past several years. Just why this should be so can be understood only in terms of the cautious instincts, timidity of movement, and deliberate political isolationism that characterize the Foundation leadership. The net product of these qualities has been an aloofness from the often grimy ways of Capitol Hill, a rarely disputed reputation for playing it clean with federal money—and an appalling incapacity to distinguish the gnats from the tigers in the U.S. Congress. Thus, last year, when Rouseff was thundering imprecations at NSF, one of the Foundation's commuting statesmen woefully said, "We're in for it now. Rouseff is going to hold an investigation."

When this mourner was asked