tively small number of men here have enabled this continent so far to escape much change by man. This isolation has been further insured by the fact that Antarctica is not yet a commercially valuable piece of territory; no mineral deposits worth developing have been discovered, and the high costs which would be associated with extraction and transportation have served to discourage extensive mineral exploration.

But Antarctica may be in for new incursions. Tourist visits by sea have been made to the Antarctic Peninsula, and a tourist ship arrived at McMurdo on 21 January. The U.S. Navy, understandably, has said that all tourists must be self-sufficient and that the Navy will not render logistics support for the tourist transports. Also, Antarctica may well become more important militarily, even though all weapons and armed military installations are barred from the continent by the Antarctic Treaty. Weapons which can approach enemy targets over Antarctica have now been developed, and there may be an increasing cry for military observation points here.

Despite the vastness of the continent, there has been some pollution of Antarctica. The air at McMurdo and around the nearby Williams landing strip is, at times, characterized by the disagreeable odor of fuel oil. Chimney smoke at U.S. stations sometimes causes camp fogs which make it difficult for airplanes to land. Untreated sewage emanates from many Antarctic camps, and mounds of garbage and other debris are thrown into the Ross Sea at McMurdo. Land vehicles and planes that break down in Antarctica are often left where they are; the Navy now has 17 nonoperative DC-3's lying around the continent. DDT, from sources originating elsewhere, has been found in Antarctic penguins.

There is concern among some Antarctic scientists that man may drastically disturb the status quo in Antarctica. A book published in cooperation with the Antarctic program of New Zealand's Department of Science and Industrial Research has warned that "the degree of man's contamination of Antarctica could become so great that it obscures the nature of the original life." In an interview, Jerry Huffman, the representative for NSF in Antarctica, indicated U.S. awareness of pollution problems and added that "we want to be careful to avoid polluting all the Dry Valleys."

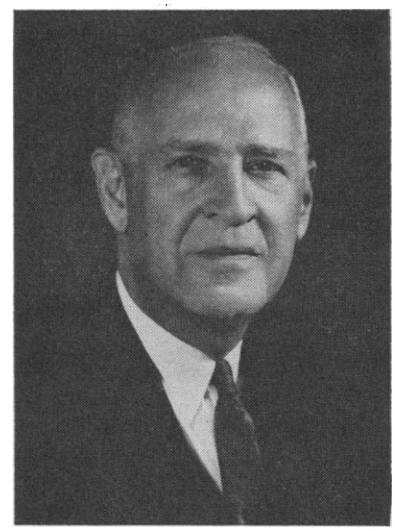
Along with the risks of further pollution, technical change also brings the possibility of better service for scientists. Increasing employment of the more versatile turbine helicopter is greatly enhancing the mobility of Antarctic scientists. A flight of the larger and faster C-141 jet transport has been made from Christchurch to McMurdo, and the Navy now regularly schedules winter flights to McMurdo. These winter flights facilitate travel for scientists, especially biologists, who often want to come to McMurdo in June or July to do research after the conclusion of the regular aca-

Senator Lister Hill to Retire

Senator Lister Hill (D–Ala.), an influential champion of federal support for medical research, has announced that he will retire in January 1969, when his current term expires. The 73-year-old legislator, who has served almost 45 years in Congress, cited his age and long service in making the announcement last week.

Hill's departure will remove from active government service the last of the trio of men who have shaped the government's burgeoning effort in medical research during the postwar decades. Another member of the trio, Representative John E. Fogarty (D–R.I.), died a year ago. And the third member, James A. Shannon, director of the National Institutes of Health since 1955, is scheduled to retire in September.

Lister Hill, who is named after famed surgeon Joseph Lister, has held immense power over the nation's health establishment by virtue of two crucial committee posts. He is chairman of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, which writes legislation affecting the Public Health Service, and he is chairman of the appropriations subcommittee that dispenses money for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The senator is perhaps best known to the public as coauthor of the Hill-Burton Act, which provides funds for construction of hospitals and clinics. He has also been a fount of generosity to the nation's medical researchers. In postwar years, while Congress has resolutely ignored many other domestic welfare needs, it has been unfailingly kind to medical research—thanks largely to the Hill-Fogarty-Shannon combine. The typical pattern in determining the government's annual



Senator Lister Hill

expenditures for medical research was that Shannon's NIH would request an increase in funds from the previous year, Fogarty's House appropriations subcommittee would recommend a boost above Shannon's request, and Hill's Senate appropriations subcommittee would recommend a still larger increase. NIH would generally end up with an appropriation close to what Hill recommended.

The spectacle of an agency actually getting more money from Congress than it had requested was so extraordinary that heads of other agencies enviously asked, "Where is our Lister Hill?" This is a question that may also arise in medical circles as a result of Hill's retirement announcement. At this point —due to the uncertainties of next fall's election and of senatorial preferences—it is not clear who will succeed to the chairmanship of either of Hill's committees, or whether the committees will continue their love affairs with medical research.—P.M.B.