taxes, but a federal election at the end of last year did not change the parliamentary balance and the legislators apparently favor the measure. Geneva plans to spend the money to increase faculty salaries and create more professorships.

The prospect of change may well have contributed to some developments in Swiss molecular biology in the last year or so. In Zurich a joint research unit in molecular biology has been formed by the university and the technical institute, and in Lausanne a research laboratory is expanding its activities. Signs of a significant reversal of the outward flow of Swiss biologists are seen in the return of such men as Charles Weissmann to Zurich from New York and of Klaus Scherrer to Lausanne from Paris.

In a small country it might seem logical to concentrate resources in a single center. But federalistic feelings penetrate science policy, and the "centers-of-excellence" syndrome is strong. To make the best of dispersion, a Swiss Committee for Molecular Biology was formed to foster cooperation among the units. Advanced-level summer courses in such subjects as microscopy and bacterial genetics are planned, and exchanges and joint seminars between units will be arranged.

Financing molecular biology will remain a problem. The population of the Geneva canton supports the university, and totals 300,000; the population of Switzerland is only 5 million, so public support of basic research cannot be unlimited. Prospects of help from industry are uncertain. A pharmaceutical company in Geneva recently indicated it would probably move unless chemistry research at the university were strengthened, and there are signs that Geneva industrialists (although apparently not yet Geneva bankers) are recognizing the advantages for them of a university with solid programs of research.

Tissières proved several points a couple of years ago when he persuaded four Basle chemical manufacturing firms to give the laboratory no-strings grants totaling about $50,000. The money was used to buy a needed amino acid analyzer, to pay for additions to the library and for travel, and to defray the expenses of scientist visitors. The firms made contributions again this year, although in smaller amounts. In approaching the firms Tissières used very straightforward tactics, supplying the kind of detail given in connection with an NIH or NSF grant in the United States, and describing the needs. There seems to be little tradition of Swiss industry support of basic research in the universities, but that, like other things, could be changing.

What is emerging in Swiss biology resembles the American system. New relationships involving laboratories, universities, and governments are developing, and biologists are cast in new roles. Kellenberger was a founding member of the European Molecular Biology Organization, he serves on the council of the Swiss National Science Foundation, and he is a member of the cooperative interuniversity committee on molecular

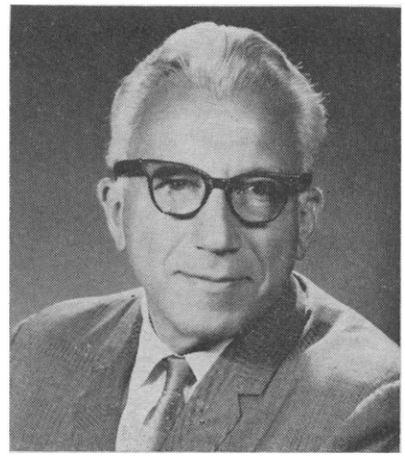
Scientist To Head New York Post

New York Mayor John Lindsay has reached into academic science to fill the directorship of the city's newly established Environmental Protection Administration (EPA). Lindsay's selection for the $35,000-a-year post is Merril Eisenbud, director of New York University's Sterling Forest Laboratory for Environmental Studies, and founding director of the Atomic Energy Commission's Health and Safety Laboratory, which he headed from 1947 to 1959.

The EPA is one of ten cabinet-style agencies that Lindsay has created in a reorganization of the New York City government. The head of each agency will be directly responsible to Lindsay. The EPA will include the departments of sanitation and air pollution control, sewage facilities maintenance, and the water services administration. A noise-abatement unit is also expected to be established within the agency. The EPA will become operational when Lindsay signs an executive order—an action that is expected before 1 March.

Eisenbud was not the sole member of the academic community whom Lindsay attempted to interest in heading one of the new super agencies. James P. Dixon, president of Antioch College, reportedly was offered, and declined, the top position in the New York City Health Services Administration. That position has since been accepted by Bernard Bucove, director of health for the state of Washington.

Eisenbud, who is 52, received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the New York University College of Engineering 1936, and in 1960 he was awarded an honorary Sc.D. by Fairleigh Dickinson University. In addition to working for the AEC and New York University, he has also worked as an industrial hygienist. The New York *Times* quoted Eisenbud as saying he accepted the directorship of the EPA because of the challenges the job offers in "proving that the modern city is governable." Eisenbud has been a member of a number of committees including: the National Commission on Radiation Protection and Measurements, 1965; the National Research Council's Toxicology Commission, 1952–62; the Commission on Meteorological Aspects of the Effects of Atomic Radiation, the National Academy of Sciences–National Research Council, 1956–63; and the World Health Organization's Panel on Radiation Hazards, since 1956. He is chairman of the U.S. Public Health Service's Advisory Committee on Environmental Radiation Exposure and a consultant to the AEC, the U.S. Public Health Service, and the World Health Organization. He is a past president of the Health Physics Society and the author of a textbook, *Environmental Radioactivity*.—K.S.



Merril Eisenbud