NEWS IN BRIEF

• **GODDARD ON LSD**: James L. Goddard, commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, has endorsed, in a seemingly reluctant manner, a provision in an administration-supported bill that would make possession of LSD and similar dangerous drugs a misdemeanor. Goddard endorsed the bill during a hearing of a House Commerce Subcommittee on 26 February. Goddard had been scheduled to testify before a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee a week earlier but canceled that appearance. This led to speculation that the Administration was attempting to silence him since he was believed to oppose the provision in the bill that would make possession of LSD illegal. However, Goddard testified that although he has felt that "it would be unwise to provide penalties which might mark a large number of young people just entering adulthood as criminals because they were found in possession of a small amount of drugs for personal use" that he now is supporting the administration's proposal because law enforcement agencies believe the law would be unenforceable without such a provision. Goddard said the main problem is to educate "people not to abuse drugs of all kinds." The bill, H.R. 15355, would make possession of LSD and similar drugs a misdemeanor punishable by up to 1-year imprisonment and a $1000 fine. There is now no federal penalty against the possession of LSD, although possession of marijuana is punishable by from 2 to 10 years' imprisonment.

• **STATE-SUPPORTED R & D**: New York, New Jersey, Illinois, and Pennsylvania were the leading states in supporting research and development activities in state agencies during 1964 and 1965, a new National Science Foundation publication reports. State agencies, excluding state colleges and universities, spent $93 million in 1965 and $77 million in 1964 for research, development, and R & D facilities, the report states. Of those funds, about 60 percent were supplied by state governments and 40 percent by the federal government. The new publication *R & D Activities in State Government Agencies, Fiscal Years 1964 and 1965* is available, at 45 cents a copy, from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

• **SCIENCE AND LOCAL PROBLEMS**: The National Science Foundation and the Southern Interstate Nuclear Board (SINB) are supporting a 1-year project designed to promote the use of science and technology in solving state and local problems. The project will include a conference in mid-September in Louisville, Ky., at which federal, state, and academic representatives from a number of disciplines, including science, technology, planning, and health, will assess the role of science and technology in local affairs. SINB is a nonfederal, publicly supported advisory and developmental agency for the nuclear and space fields. It was established by interstate compact among the 17 contiguous states which make up the Southern Governors' Conference.

• **GOVERNMENT LAB AT PRINCETON**: A federal laboratory, the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL), will move from Washington, D.C., to Princeton University in the fall. The laboratory conducts theoretical research in meteorology. It was organized in 1955 for the U.S. Weather Bureau and was moved in 1966 from the Weather Bureau to the newly created Environmental Science Services Administration. Joseph Smagorinsky, director of GFDL, said that the motivation for the move "was to seek the opportunity for our research workers to participate in the academic process, not only to enhance their productivity and diversity, but to contribute to the training of creative scientists." Under the agreement between Princeton and GFDL, the laboratory and the university will design an interdepartmental graduate program. Scientists at the GFDL may hold faculty appointments; however, all laboratory personnel will retain their civil service status. The laboratory operates on an annual budget of around $2 million and has about 55 employees. At Princeton, the lab will be housed in a new building 3 miles from Princeton's main campus. A ten-member university committee, under the chairmanship of Courtland D. Perkins, recommended the move to the university. Perkins is associate dean of the school of engineering and applied science and chairman of the department of aerospace and mechanical science.

ning program. Nonetheless, the Department is persuaded that the conditions which prevailed at the time justified NIH's exercise of limited experimental option, even though the number of institutions involved might have been larger.

On the question of legal authority for the HSAA program, NIH cites opinions from the comptroller general and the general counsel of HEW that the program already has specific statutory authorization.

A second major criticism made by the Fountain committee involved NIH's substitution of a single cost-sharing grant, totaling at least $22.6 million over 5 years, for 41 grants and three contracts previously in effect at the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research. The committee expressed concern over removing such a large sum from competition and from outside review. It also noted that several Sloan-Kettering research proposals had been turned down by NIH in recent years on the grounds that they were "unimaginative," "unsophisticated," or "disappointing." The committee found it "a questionable practice" to give Sloan-Kettering discretion to finance these same projects from a single cost-sharing grant.

NIH replies that "many of the broad problems in cancer are not amenable to solution by individual and independent scientists" but require a "general plan of attack." The agency notes that Sloan-Kettering is one of about a dozen American research institutions wholly devoted to the investigation of cancer and argues that "such programs can best be reviewed and most intelligently supported as a whole." Thus, while NIH review groups may have disapproved some Sloan-Kettering projects as "unimaginative," such judgments were made from the viewpoint of a specific discipline and did not reflect "the importance or necessary relationship of the individual project to the broader research setting or program objectives of which it may be an integral part." NIH says a single comprehensive grant simplifies administration, results in a better total picture of the grantee's operations, and provides Sloan-Kettering with financial security, thus enhancing its ability to recruit the best-qualified investigators. The agency further points out that its agreement with Sloan-Kettering provides for an annual comprehensive review of the scientific content of Sloan-Kettering programs by selected consultants of the National Cancer Institute and for institute approval of all program changes.