

tion, the committee turned its attention to Asia. Richard Solomon of Michigan told the committee that the situation in Vietnam had indicated "all too clearly our failure to have drawn the proper conclusions from our earlier unsuccessful effort to relate to China and her revolution." Solomon argued that, in effect, the United States had established "a revolutionary alliance" with Communist China: "Unwittingly, America's Asian presence has worked to give Mao a new image of imperialism which he has used as a foil to mobilize China's peasant millions for continuing domestic, political and social battles."

James C. Thomson, Jr., another China expert, agreed with Solomon that the United States had not responded intelligently to the Chinese Communist revolution. The shock of Communist victory in China in 1949, he argued, "has made us lose sight of big problems and long-term forces; it has forced us back on ill-considered, ad hoc responses to East Asia's instability, and has made us overly fearful of the revolutionary process in Asia."

#### Social Scientists' Responsibility

Thomson, who served in key positions in the Asia sections of the Department of State and the White House from 1961 to 1966, said that some social scientists shared responsibility with the military for developing the concept of counterinsurgency which the United States has tried to implement in Vietnam. Although he did not give the names of such social scientists, it is obvious that one leading exponent of the "messianic" doctrines he deplored is Walt W. Rostow, formerly of MIT, who is now the chief adviser on the White House foreign affairs staff. Thomson called the U.S. involvement in Vietnam "unwise" and added that "It is, moreover, a profoundly depressing case study of our mishandling of an Asian revolutionary problem."

The final witness, John T. McAlister of Princeton, was called to speak about Vietnam. In McAlister's opinion, the United States has incurred its present difficulties because "when we went in Vietnam, we did not realize that the country was in the midst of an unresolved political conflict . . . we have become engaged in a revolutionary war involving all of the Vietnamese people." McAlister, who served as a U.S. military officer in Vietnam for 2 years, said that in Vietnam "a disservice has been done to our military to ask them

## A POINT OF VIEW

*Excerpt from a book review by John K. Fairbank, director of the East Asian Research Center at Harvard, in the 28 March issue of the New York Review of Books.*

We saw in 1966 how crazy Mao was to close all Chinese schools for a year—how can a country possibly modernize without education? Now in 1968 we ourselves have abolished draft deferment for, among others, the few hundred talented and carefully selected American graduate students specializing in Chinese studies. Who's crazy now?

### Department of Transportation Fills Research Post

The position of Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology in the Department of Transportation was vacant far longer than any other top administrative position in the Department of Transportation. Whether the job was unfilled because of a rigorous search for the most talented man or because of disinterest on the part of the Administration or of possible candidates is a matter of conjecture. Nonetheless, President Johnson waited more than 14 months after signing the legislation creating the Transportation Department to appoint Frank W. Lehan to the \$27,000-a-year Assistant Secretary post in late December.

The Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology is primarily an adviser to the Secretary of Transportation. Four offices are under Lehan's jurisdiction; two are new and two were transferred to Transportation from other federal agencies. The two new offices are the Office of Research and Development and the Office of Noise Abatement. The Research and Development office currently has a staff of four, but eventually will have a 15-member staff of scientists and engineers, Lehan said in an interview with *Science*. Offices that were transferred to Transportation from other agencies are the Office of Hazardous Materials, which reviews existing standards on the handling of dangerous materials, and the Office of Transportation Information Planning (TIP). The Hazardous Materials office was previously under the Inter-



Frank W. Lehan

state Commerce Commission while TIP was in the Department of Commerce. None of the offices under Lehan's jurisdiction have regulatory authority.

Lehan, who is 45, has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the California Institute of Technology. From 1944 to 1954, he was employed by Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. In 1954, he joined the Space Technology Laboratory of the Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation as associate director of the electronics laboratory. Later, Lehan formed his own company, Space Electronics Corporation. The company was bought by Aerojet-General in 1961 and was named the Space General Corporation; Lehan served as president from 1962-66. Since 1966, he has been a consultant for several scientific and engineering projects. He has been a member of the President's Science Advisory Committee Panel on Naval Warfare since early in 1967.—K.S.