

## NEWS IN BRIEF

● **COHEN NAMED FOR HEW:** On 22 March, President Johnson nominated Wilbur J. Cohen, the Under Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) as the successor to Secretary John W. Gardner (*Science*, 2 February). The optimistic and energetic Cohen enjoyed wide support from inside HEW for appointment as Secretary and was reported to have also had the backing of Gardner and of influential private citizens, including philanthropist Mary Lasker. Cohen, who is regarded as a liberal in his politics, has played a major part in preparing much welfare, education, and health legislation, including Medicare. Now 54, Cohen has worked for the federal government since 1934, except for the period from 1956 to 1961 when he taught public welfare administration at the University of Michigan.

● **HEALTH ETHICS:** Scientists appearing before a Senate subcommittee considering SJR 145, a bill introduced by Senator Walter F. Mondale (D—Minn.) which calls for the creation of a Commission on the Ethical and Social Implications of Health Science Research and Development, expressed strong opposition to the bill. As proposed, the commission would study the ethical, social, and legal implications of federally supported biomedical research and technology programs. Christiaan Barnard, the South African surgeon who conducted the first heart transplant operation, was a leading critic. He stated that commissions hinder physicians. Other scientists who appeared before the subcommittee included Nobel laureates Arthur Kornberg and Joshua Lederberg. Both were cool toward the proposed bill. Lederberg opposed the commission being "charged with making substantive prescriptions, after one year's study, about the biological policy of the human species." Kornberg indicated he feared a regulatory role might grow out of the commission's deliberations.

● **YALE READMISSION POLICY:** The Yale Corporation has approved a policy statement on the readmission of Yale graduate and professional students whose academic careers are interrupted either by military service or criminal conviction for failure to comply with induction orders. According to

Yale president Kingman Brewster, Jr., students who withdraw from Yale for either reason will be considered for readmission on the same basis. Brewster stated, "We believe that a student who receives a criminal conviction for non-compliance with an induction order, if that non-compliance is demonstrably rooted in conscience, should be considered for readmission on the same basis as those who withdrew for service."

● **OECD SCIENCE MINISTERS:** At a meeting in Paris in early March the science ministers of the member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) carried on their discussion of ways to narrow the technological gap between the United States and European countries. The ministers agreed to appoint a panel of experts to advise on setting up a council to coordinate basic research in Europe. A study on ways to improve the exchange of scientific and technical information between member countries was also ordered. A proposal for creation of a European institute of technology remains in the talking stage. Studies made public at the meeting give the impression that OECD now has a much clearer working analysis of the causes and extent of the gap than a year ago, but with 22 member countries, including the United States, in OECD, it is likely to be difficult to fashion an agreed program of effective action.

● **URBAN AFFAIRS PROGRAM:** A program which will place M.I.T. faculty members on the staffs of urban officials throughout the United States for a year or more has been initiated by M.I.T. The Fellows in Urban Affairs Program is one of several urban affairs projects that is being developed by the university under a \$3-million Ford Foundation grant. Each faculty member selected for the program will be a specialist in some discipline related to urban problems. The salaries and expenses of urban fellows will be shared by M.I.T. and the employers. M.I.T. president Howard W. Johnson described the primary objective of the program as the "creation of effective new links between academic departments at M.I.T. and centers of urban activity and innovation." Carroll L. Wilson, professor of management, will direct the program.

to do a job which was beyond being done by military power alone." McAlister estimated that it would take 3 to 15 million soldiers in Vietnam to stabilize the situation and that, even then, U.S. military supremacy would not be assured.

Nothing that was said by any of the five scholars about Vietnam could have made Fulbright and the "dovish" majority of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee angry. None of the five had a kind word to say about U.S. involvement in Vietnam or Administration policy there. In many of the committee members, including Fulbright, the scholars found a receptive ear for their belief that the United States should approach foreign revolutions with some equanimity. Fulbright said that even the Mexican Revolution might have been called Communistic today in the United States. "Anyone who seeks to upset the established order is generally referred to as a Communist or with Communist proclivities in this day and time," he lamented. At a later point in the hearing, the Chairman asked, "Stability in itself is not necessarily the highest good, is it? Many places need some change. We shouldn't become devoted solely to the status quo, should we?"

In general, the answer of the scholars was that the United States should tread very warily in dealing with foreign revolutionary situations. Hartz said that "it is extraordinarily difficult, if not impossible, through outside intervention to repress a revolutionary situation in any area." Brinton said, in this period, which he called "an age of revolutions," that "the nearest thing I can get to a formula is to assume that a revolutionary movement is basically the concern of the country itself, and unless there are very clear, evident signs of present danger to the peace of the world, we should be benevolently neutral." Thomson predicted that "instability will be endemic to much of East Asia for the remainder of this century" and urged U.S. leaders "to keep steady nerves in the face of such instability."

Fulbright is probably correct in his judgment that holding public hearings is the best way to educate Senators to academic thinking. In the past Fulbright has had scholars prepare papers on various topics, but it is difficult to induce most Senators to take time to read analytical documents. They learn more when they can listen and ask their own questions.

Four or five years ago, it would