

Harris says, he would like to spend his time "writing and teaching." He was, reportedly, pleased to have had his name suggested for the presidency of a state university in the Southwest. "I guess all politicians like to lecture," he grinned, "We really are sort of teachers, at heart."

Harris is already writing his own books. He recently finished his "personal view" of his work on the Civil Disorders Commission, which will be published in late May by Harper and Row. Staff members swear that he wrote the book himself on weekends. He is also working on two books which emanate from his subcommittee hearings, one on "health, science, and society" and another on "disadvantage and deprivation." He says that there are several other books he would like to write—one on five outstanding Senators, another on the American Indian, a third on Latin America.

#### Similarity to Kerr

In political ability and energy, Harris has often been compared to that one-time Senate potentate from Oklahoma, the late Robert Kerr, who brought his state much-needed federal largesse through power on the Public Works and Finance Committees. Harris originally served on Public Works; when appointed to the influential Finance Committee, he had to choose whether to give up Public Works or his seat on the Government Operations Committee, together with his chairmanship of the government research subcommittee. He overruled pressure from some of his Oklahoma supporters who wanted him to keep his seat on Public Works, and kept his seat on the Government Operations Committee.

Harris says he likes his work on the government research subcommittee, and that it has greatly enhanced the "rich education" which he says he has received "at the public expense." He thinks that his subcommittee has had three main impacts in its 2 years of existence:

"First, it has greatly increased attention to the social sciences within the federal government, and has resulted in additional funds.

"Second, there has been a great change within the scientific establishment on the question of equitable distribution of R & D funds around the country. There haven't been many results, but there has been a change in attitude. Now people recognize it as a problem. The spending of R & D funds

has an educational impact and an economic one. I don't believe in dismantling existing centers of excellence but, rather, in supplementing them.

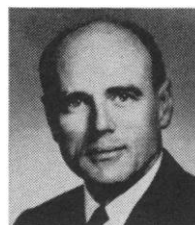
"Third, more and more people are coming to believe in a goals-oriented health policy. They're coming to that position after being reassured that such a policy will not be implemented to the detriment of basic research. A lot of people are concerned that we aren't doing better in health. This change of attitude, however, hasn't brought much change in results yet."

Recently, Harris has begun wondering whether it would not be better to have his government research subcommittee "phase out and die," to be replaced by a joint House-Senate study committee on science and technology, somewhat along the lines of the Joint Economic Committee. Harris emphasizes that he hasn't refined his thinking on these matters but has been asking himself, "Is there any way, without sacrificing the values of our pluralistic scientific system, to bring more coherence into our scientific policy? We don't want the kind of scientific system the Soviet Union has, but we do need more planning, a more goals-oriented policy."

Even though Harris will be spending a portion of his time on research hearings in forthcoming months, it is apparent that his other activities, especially those on the Civil Disorders Commission, where he experienced at first hand the intense anger and hostility of an increasing portion of the residents of city ghettos, have had a much more profound effect on his recent thinking. "I feel very alarmed and depressed about conditions in this country," the usually buoyant Harris says. "What really worries me is the fragmentation of this country into black and white, rich and poor, old and young."

Harris' supporters don't believe that his participation on the civil disorders commission will do him any good politically at present in Oklahoma (which is more than 90 percent white), but Harris thinks the conclusions of the report have to be confronted whatever their immediate political consequences. "Racism is a fact of American life," he said quietly; "it is an ugly fact but we have to see it to deal with it." Even more impressive than Fred Harris' other important attributes is his capacity to face the grimmest aspects of our national life squarely while retaining the determination to do something to change that reality.—BRYCE NELSON

## APPOINTMENTS



Robert B. Mautz



H. Burr Steinbach

**Robert B. Mautz**, vice president for academic affairs, University of Florida, to chancellor of the Florida University system. . . . **H. Burr Steinbach**, chairman of the department of zoology, University of Chicago and director and president of the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, on leave as dean of graduate studies, Woods Hole. . . . **John Summerskill**, president of San Francisco State College has resigned. . . . **Patrick J. Friel**, director of the Office of Ballistic Missile Defense, Advanced Research Projects Agency, to deputy assistant secretary of the Army, and director of the newly established Advanced Ballistic Missile Defense Agency, which will combine some elements of the Advanced Research Projects Agency, Office of Ballistic Missile Defense and the on-going NIKE-X advanced development. . . . **Edward D. Jordan**, head of the division of nuclear engineering, Catholic University, to director of the newly established Office of Institutional Research and Planning at the university. . . . **Harriott O. Kunkel**, acting dean and director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, to an additional post as dean of agriculture, Texas A&M University. . . . **Peter Dehlinger**, head of the geophysics program, ocean science and technology group of the Office of Naval Research, to director of the newly established Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Connecticut. . . . **Floyd L. Thompson**, director of Langley Research Center, NASA, to special assistant to **James E. Webb**, administrator of NASA. He will be succeeded by **Edgar N. Cortright**, deputy associate administrator for manned space flight, NASA headquarters. . . . **W. Peter Crowcroft**, director, South Australian Museum, to director of the Chicago Zoological Park. . . . **Aaron Ganz**, training grants and fellowships officer, NIH, to chief of the program planning office, National Institute of Dental Research.