

What is seen as needed is a new type of instruction providing a shorter period of specialized instruction leading directly to a job. Prestige, however, still attaches to the traditional university training (the longer and more theoretical the better) leading to a teaching degree at the highest possible level.

Perhaps the boldest gamble of the reformers has been to create an entirely new sort of institution, the *Institut Universitaire de Technologie* (IUT). These IUT's are designed to correct the serious French shortage of well-trained technicians and, not incidentally, to cut the wastage of able people lost in the university crush. The IUT's offer diplomas in such specialties as various types of engineering, electronics and automation, chemistry, and applied biology. The 2-year course is intended to prepare graduates to qualify directly for jobs in production research or administration.

Admission to the IUT's is open to baccalaureates and others who demon-

strate they can profit from instruction at the higher-education level. The government's high hopes for the IUT's are indicated by its forecast that nearly a quarter of all students in higher education will be in the IUT's in the 1970's. There are perhaps 10,000 now.

Because the reform requires a restructuring of the universities, the creation of new categories of instruction, and a redirection of students—as exemplified in the IUT's—its success will depend on how faculty and students react.

The predicament of unreformed higher education was colorfully described by Education Minister Alain Peyrefitte last year in a speech at Besançon when he said, "It is as if we organized a shipwreck in order to pick out the best swimmers who would be the only ones to escape drowning." The difficulties of persuading professors and students to participate in the rescue will be discussed in another article.

—JOHN WALSH

## Shannon Postpones Departure from NIH

On 25 April, James A. Shannon, director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), said at the weekly meeting of the directors of his individual institutes that he had agreed to postpone his scheduled 1 September departure from NIH. This meeting was apparently the first occasion on which Shannon had announced his intentions in a semi-public situation, but he had, reportedly, made up his mind to stay on well before the meeting.

One event which seems to have delayed Shannon's departure was President Johnson's announcement that he would not seek another term. Johnson's forthcoming exit means that any new NIH director would soon have to deal with a new President and a new Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW). It is more difficult to attract a top candidate to the directorship if he does not know the men to whom he will soon be answerable. Second, there has always been anxiety among top federal health officials that President Johnson would succumb to pressures to appoint an NIH director who was not fully acceptable to a large portion of the research community. Some have feared that health patron Mary Lasker would be successful in her reported at-

tempts to obtain the appointment of one of her candidates; most often mentioned is Michael E. De Bakey, the noted surgeon at the Baylor University Medical School in Houston. With Shannon staying on for a few more months, there will be less worry about President Johnson's succumbing to such pressures.

Shannon was urged to remain at NIH by both the present HEW Secretary, Wilbur J. Cohen, and the former Secretary, John W. Gardner. One reason Shannon was asked to stay on is that there has been difficulty in finding a suitable candidate to replace him. A factor which complicates this search is President Johnson's intention to slice \$6 billion from the 1969 federal budget. Although it has not yet been announced where this large cut will be made, NIH is a likely candidate to share a place at the budgetary chopping block, a prospect which serves to make all concerned more cautious.

Shannon has agreed to remain only until a suitable replacement can be found. At this point it is plausible to speculate that Shannon will continue to serve at NIH at least until the transition at the White House next January.

—BRYCE NELSON

## RECENT DEATHS

**Harold D. Babcock**, 86; retired member of the staff of Mount Wilson Observatory and Mount Palomar Observatory; 8 April.

**Firman E. Bear**, 83; professor emeritus of soils, Rutgers University; 6 April.

**Charles O. Beckmann**, 64; professor and former chairman of the department of chemistry, Columbia University; 9 April.

**Harry H. Keefan**, 64; retired physicist, National Bureau of Standards; 19 April.

**Edward F. Kohman**, 83; former consultant for Campbell Soup Company; 5 April.

**Charles C. Lauritsen**, 76; professor of physics at the California Institute of Technology and one of the developers of the atomic bomb; 13 April.

**Frederic W. Lincoln**, 69; retired chairman of the board of trustees, New York Medical College and Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospitals; 7 April.

**Harry M. Linnette**, 64; physicist at the Navy Electronics Laboratory and former professor of physics at Virginia Union University and Virginia State College; 5 April.

**James D. Luckett**, 76; former editor at Cornell University's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station; 9 April.

**Eugene A. Markush**, 80; former president of the Verona-Pharma Chemical Corporation; 21 April.

**Jacob Perlman**, 69; retired head of the Office of Economic and Manpower Studies, National Science Foundation; 8 April.

**Arnold R. Rich**, 74; professor of pathology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; 17 April.

**George A. Talland**, 51; assistant professor of psychology at Harvard Medical School; 2 March.

**David Tilles**, 34; geophysicist and associate professor, department of oceanography, Oregon State University; 30 March. Dr. Tilles and one of his sons were killed on the Oregon beach by a large boulder dislodged in a rock slide from a 20-foot cliff near the beach.

**Vladimir Vand**, 57; professor of crystallography, Pennsylvania State University; 4 April.

**William H. Wolf**, 53; associate chief engineer of the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of Agriculture; 13 April.