

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **NIH FOREIGN TRAVEL:** In an effort to allay fears that it has canceled all foreign travel as a result of Administration efforts to curb overseas expenditures, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has issued a statement clarifying its travel support policy for the remainder of fiscal year 1968 and for fiscal year 1969. NIH and other agencies that make up the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare will reduce projected expenditures for foreign travel during these periods "somewhat in excess of 25 percent." The reduction applies both to NIH's own personnel and to outside scientists. On 11 March NIH rescinded all authorizations previously granted for use of grant or award funds for foreign travel, but grantees may request reconsideration by letter to the appropriate awarding institute or by a special attachment to any new, renewal, or supplemental grant application. NIH will give preference to travel requests "essential for the performance of research covered by the grant or award." Individual requests for travel funds to international meetings "will, in most instances, be approved only when such travel is incidental to foreign travel essential for the purposes of the grant or award." Grants will be renegotiated with responsible scientific societies to assure adequate U.S. representation at important international meetings.

● **LUNAR SCIENCE INSTITUTE:** In a departure from normal practice, the National Academy of Sciences has agreed to establish and initially operate a Lunar Science Institute in Houston to serve as a base for scientists interested in studying materials brought back from the moon by astronauts. The Academy has received a \$580,000 grant from NASA, most of which is expected to be used to renovate a building on Rice University property adjacent to NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center. Rice will assist in the project as a subcontractor. The institute's facilities are intended for study and conference purposes and will require little or no scientific equipment. Scientists requiring experimental facilities will use NASA's Lunar Receiving Laboratory, now being completed at the Space Center. Frederick Seitz, Academy president, said the Academy will operate the institute on an "interim" basis until a consortium of uni-

versities can be organized to take over. Seitz has already approached Universities Research Associates Inc. (URA), a 49-member consortium formed to operate the new 200-Bev accelerator at Weston, Ill., but that group has not yet decided whether to take over the lunar institute as well. Although the Academy traditionally shuns an operational role in scientific projects lest such direct involvement impair its objectivity as a scientific adviser to the government, Seitz said the Academy decided to operate the lunar institute on an interim basis because "someone had to pick up the ball and URA was not ready at the critical time."

● **NSF REORGANIZATION:** The Senate on 24 May passed a bill amending the National Science Foundation Act so as to broaden the Foundation's mission; strengthen the policy-making role of the National Science Board; and increase the administrative authority of the NSF director. The bill would authorize NSF to support applied research, would direct it to support the social sciences, and would make the National Science Board responsible for rendering an annual report on science. The Senate bill differs in several respects from an NSF reorganization bill passed by the House last year, but the only substantial difference appears to be a requirement in the Senate bill that NSF receive annual authorization for its appropriations instead of its current permanent authorization. The differences are expected to be resolved without difficulty. The Senate bill was sponsored by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and the House bill by Rep. Emilio Q. Daddario (D-Conn.).

● **OLIVER LEE DENIED TENURE:** After hundreds of University of Hawaii students demonstrated to force the Regents to grant tenure to the controversial political scientist Oliver M. Lee (*Science*, 1 Mar.), the Regents announced that Lee had been refused tenure, that his connection with the university would be ended by June, and that President Thomas H. Hamilton's resignation was effective immediately. Tenure cases like that of Oliver Lee have often resulted in an AAUP investigation to determine whether grounds exist for censure of the university.

The rector had violated the sanctity of the university by inviting the police inside, and had, in effect, admitted that his political problems with students could no longer be solved without outside help. That the police were despised and also regarded as the arm of authoritarian Gaullist government only widened the breach.

(In the wake of the continuing disturbances, the Minister of Education, Alain Peyrefitte, was forced to resign on 28 May. Premier Pompidou said he would add the position to his own duties.)

Closing the Sorbonne meant more than locking the doors. Having been caught short-handed Friday, the police resolved not to make the same mistake twice. By the busload, they arrived early Monday morning and cordoned off the university against a planned student demonstration. This show of force succeeded only temporarily, and by early afternoon the police were fighting students all over the Latin Quarter (the area surrounding the Sorbonne).

The presence of the police served as the main catalyst in enlarging the protest. The issue now became a question of "student repression"; thousands of students and hundreds of professors (including five Nobel prize winners) became involved, and competing student political groups were united. The police were their own worst enemies; countless incidents of indiscriminate violence (such as the shooting of tear gas bombs into crowds of passive spectators) put Parisian public opinion on the side of the students.

After Monday's combats, the police got hold of themselves and UNEF got hold of the students. A student strike, called by UNEF, began to paralyze universities all over France. Violence was sporadic; mass marches of 10,000 to 30,000 crisscrossed Paris. By this time the movement had sensed its own strength and wanted concrete concessions from the government: the reopening of the Sorbonne, the removal of police from the Latin Quarter, and amnesty for all people arrested and held during the street fighting.

The government was willing to budge on only the first two demands. The students remained adamant and on Friday paraded again, 10,000 strong. The police, in solid lines, prevented the march from leaving the Latin Quarter and, in effect, attempted to turn the demonstration back to its starting point. The students refused to turn back, decided to encamp on the streets sur-