

## NEWS IN BRIEF

● **NSF BILL:** The house last week completed final congressional action on a new legislative charter for the National Science Foundation. The bill, which was originally introduced by Representative Emilio Q. Daddario (D-Conn.), passed the House last year but was returned to bring it into conformity with a number of Senate amendments. The most significant of these provides for annual authorization hearings for the Foundation (*Science*, 10 May 1968). The House accepted the amendments following a brief debate in which Representative George Miller (D-Calif.), chairman of the Science and Astronautics Committee—which will handle the authorization bill—assured budget-minded members that the annual bill will spell out the NSF program in detail and will not simply state a lump sum for the Foundation's activities. In the House, Daddario will probably handle the bill. The Senate situation is less clear, but the authorization will be handled there by the Labor and Public Welfare Committee and may come under the chairmanship of Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), whose special subcommittee on science handled the Daddario bill. At the same session, the House also gave final approval to the Standard Reference Data Act, which authorizes the expenditure of \$1.8 million for the National Bureau of Standards to assemble and disseminate various technical data.

● **SONIC BOOM:** The Senate Commerce Committee approved on 27 June a House-passed bill requiring the Federal Aviation Administration to prescribe standards and rules for control and abatement of sonic boom. On the same day, the House Appropriations Committee eliminated the \$233 million asked by President Johnson for supersonic transport development. Because of delays in design and construction of the SST, this action is not expected to have any immediate effect, but may reflect some congressional uneasiness. Earlier last week, a study committee of the National Academy of Sciences recommended that a special study be made of human response to sonic boom. The Human Response Subcommittee, chaired by Raymond A. Bauer of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, warned that while sonic booms may cause no direct damage to hearing, "indirect physiological re-

sponses, however, can result from the startle produced by sonic booms of even moderate proportions." The report is available for \$2 from the Printing and Publishing Office, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

● **CARIBBEAN RESEARCH:** The Caribbean Research Institute is currently developing a program of ecological research on Anegada Island in the British Virgin Islands. Further information is available from Edward L. Towle, director, Caribbean Research Institute, Box 1826, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

● **FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION:** At an "emergency meeting" called on 21 June by the New York Academy of Sciences to consider means of preventing deep slashes in federal support for research and development, scientists warned that the nation will face serious consequences if it lets science efforts slip. Keynote speaker Linus C. Pauling said that a serious cutback in science research "would be an act of national folly." Geneticist H. Bentley Glass and Minoru Tsutsui, New York Academy of Sciences president, expressed the same sentiment. Somewhat different views were expressed by Representative Lester L. Wolff (D-N.Y.), Walter S. Baer of the Science and Technology Office, and Margaret Mead. Baer says federal funds are being leveled, not cut back. Wolff and Mead say scientists have acted too late and too quietly.

● **SEABORG REAPPOINTMENT TO AEC:** Glenn T. Seaborg has accepted reappointment as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, but, at his request, it will be for a 2-year term rather than the full 5-year period. Seaborg, who has served as chairman since 1961, told a congressional committee in a confirmation hearing on 26 June that, because of financial considerations, he will not accept a full term. The job pays \$30,000 a year. President Johnson has also announced the renomination of Commission members James T. Ramey to a new 5-year term. Ramey's present term expires on 30 June 1969. Even with the Seaborg and Ramey reappointments the five-member commission is still one member short.

borhood museums. So far, inquiries have come in from museum directors across the country, and two neighborhood-type museums have been started in New York City.

Before the Smithsonian began operating its neighborhood museum, Ripley told *Science*, "I realize that it may fail and that everyone may laugh at us for trying it, but I don't care. We're just going to go ahead and do it." It is obvious that no one is laughing about the neighborhood museum, except perhaps in pleasure at its success.

The visitor to the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum emerges to the same world of poverty and blighted human hopes. But he has, at least for the time he has been there, again sensed that direct participation in the excitement of learning and achievement can add some measure of joy to all our lives.

—BRYCE NELSON

### Student Aid: Standardization Sought in U.S. Government Stipends

Two separate government studies have started movement toward standardizing traineeship and fellowship grants of various government agencies. The most direct result, so far, is a recently issued policy statement by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW),\* which makes several important changes aimed at standardizing that department's grant programs.

The studies—conducted by the General Accounting Office (GAO) and the Division of Grants Administration Policy at HEW—sought to find the variations in awards and then to seek ways to eliminate those variations. "It was not a question of standardization for standardization's sake," a Bureau of the Budget (BOB) spokesman told *Science*, but rather an attempt to make the various federal programs less competitive and contradictory.

He said that the GAO report, which was submitted to the Budget Bureau, will have done its job if HEW "gets its house in some kind of order." After that, he said, it becomes a question of priorities. Since HEW accounts for some 80 percent of all federal traineeship and fellowship grants and, according to the GAO report, some 90 percent of the standardization problems, with HEW in order, the BOB spokes-

\*The policy statement, "Pre-Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Student Support," is part of HEW's recently published *Grants Administration*. It can be obtained for \$4 from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

man said, "we feel that a major share of the job will have been done."

The regulations of the 7-page HEW policy statement became effective on 1 July. For pre-doctoral students, the statement sets a stipend ceiling of \$2,400 for the first year after college, \$2,600 for all following years except the last, and \$2,800 for the final pre-doctoral year. The new stipend ceilings for all HEW agencies and programs for post-doctoral trainees and fellows are \$6,000 for the first year, \$6,500 for the second, and \$7,000 for all additional years. In addition, the policy statement sets a standard dependency allowance of \$500 per year, defining a dependent as any person who receives over half of his support from the trainee or fellow. The statement also says that all grants shall be given for the calendar year.

Perhaps most importantly, however, the statement attempts to standardize the awarding of supplementary funds that are allowable under HEW grants. Although not prohibiting the university's right to give supplementary funds to students, the statement says that teaching loads should not be foisted on trainees or fellows under supplementary grants that will "significantly prolong the time required for the accomplishment of the training objective" of the award. It also says that supplementary funds from other government agencies cannot exceed \$1000 per annum and that funds from institutional supplementary grants should not be used "as a means of recruitment of students."

HEW officials were unaware of the GAO study when they began theirs some 9 months ago. Matthias Lasker, of HEW's Division of Grants Administration Policy, told *Science* that the study was undertaken in response to a considerable number of "expressions of concern" from educators and educational associations on the lack of standardization among HEW grants. HEW auditors found, as did the GAO investigators, that different agencies in HEW gave substantially varying amounts to similar trainees and fellows.

Lasker said that one program gave stipends of \$1800 and another gave stipends of \$3000 to graduate students at the same level doing the same kind of work. Both studies also found that dependents were treated differently by various programs. Some provided allowances for dependents; others did not. Even the way dependents were defined varied from program to program.

The most significant difference, however, Lasker said, was in the rules relating to supplementary allowances. In some programs, no other grants or funds could be accepted by students, while in others, limits were set on the amount that could be accepted, and in still others, students were free to take as much extra money as they could get.

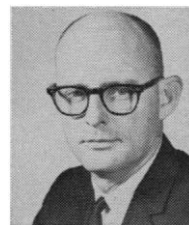
After a departmental audit, Lasker said, HEW established a task force, composed of representatives from each of the operating programs. It identified the levels of stipends, travel allowances, dependency allowances, and supplementary allowances for each program. Then HEW officials met with educational officials, and representatives from BOB, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the National Science Foundation (NSF), to discuss standardization and possible steps that could be taken. "We immediately discovered that there was no real agreement on the purpose for establishing a stipend ceiling at a particular level," Lasker said. "It was very difficult to determine why there was such a difference among programs." (The GAO report cites the independent growth of the various agencies and programs as the main reason for the great differences among programs.) "We thought that the purpose for stipends was to provide subsistence, not necessarily to attract students to a particular field or to compete with other programs," Lasker said, "so we decided that we should standardize wherever we could."

Lasker said that some exceptions are made under the new policy; for instance, professionals whom the universities are trying to induce to return to the academic community will be given somewhat higher stipends. He also said that the department is now in the process of setting up an advisory group of educators and administrators that will meet periodically to try to adjust stipend and supplementary awards according to the standards of living in various areas of the country. The policy statement does represent a significant first step toward standardization of the traineeship and fellowship grant programs of HEW agencies. Now, according to the Bureau of the Budget, other agencies, notably NASA and NSF, will be encouraged to study HEW's statement and try to bring about greater consistency in their own grant programs.—A.J.

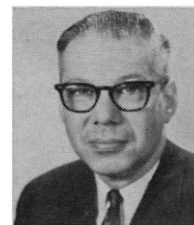
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## APPOINTMENTS

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J. W. Townsend



W. A. Baum

**John W. Townsend**, deputy director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, to deputy administrator of the Commerce Department's Environmental Science Services Administration; he succeeds **Werner A. Baum**, who will become president of the University of Rhode Island. . . . **Robert W. Berliner**, director of Intramural Research for the National Heart Institute, to director of laboratories and clinics, National Institutes of Health; he succeeds **G. Burroughs Mider**, who will become special assistant to the director of the National Library of Medicine. . . . **Richard G. Leahy**, director of laboratories of the division of engineering and applied physics at Harvard, to assistant dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences for Resources and Planning at the university; he succeeds **Arthur D. Trottenberg** who will become vice president for administration at the Ford Foundation. . . . **James W. McGrath**, professor of physics, Kent State University, to dean of the graduate school there. . . . **Lloyd C. Elam**, dean of the School of Medicine of Meharry Medical College, to president of the college. . . . **Edwin H. Lennette**, chief of the Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory, California State Department of Public Health, to president of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology and chairman of the Federation Board. . . . **George L. Mehren**, director of science and education, USDA, to executive director on the New York staff of Agribusiness Council, Inc. . . . **Dean F. Peterson**, dean of the School of Engineering, Utah State University, to director of the office of Water for Peace. . . . **Robert F. Long**, commander of the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories, to Brigadier General. . . . **Randolph A. Kidder**, coordinator of the National Interdepartmental Institute of the Department of State, to director of the Paris office of the Institute of International Education.