

and an automatic majority in Parliament, there is little real discussion of policies in the formative stage. An attempt to mitigate this closed system has been launched in the House of Commons with the formation of specialized committees on agriculture, science and technology, and education. Some indication of the way things work is to be found in a recent episode. The Treasury drastically cut the number of positions for clerks which the new committees requested for their staff work. This would have been unimaginable effrontery in the United States, but

came to light in Britain only when the chief clerk of the House of Commons was called in to explain to a subcommittee of the committee on science and technology about difficulties in getting its work done.

Ministers do explain and defend their decisions in the House of Commons, but seldom do critics have the information or the expertise to make a serious challenge. In cases of scientific or technical decisions this is particularly true. The recent decision to take Britain out of the European 300 GeV accelerator project, primarily on financial grounds,

was an instance when some discussion of the implications for British science policy might have been expected; none was forthcoming. The Minister of Technology has been pondering important decisions on the future of Britain's nuclear power industry, in which the government plays a key role, but there has been virtually no real public discussion of alternatives. It is clear that Britain today faces serious problems in organizing its government and that the state of the civil service, although important, is only one element.—JOHN WALSH

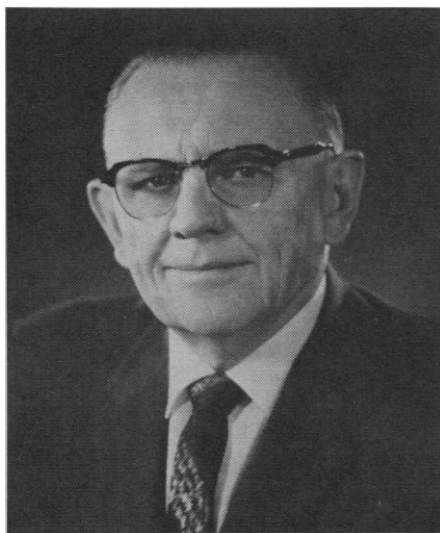
## Congress: Redwoods, Scenic Rivers Bills Suffer Setback

On 15 July the House of Representatives took up several bills under suspension of the rules, a procedure by which debate is limited, amendments are barred, and a two-thirds majority is required for passage. Among the bills handled in this way were three important natural-resource measures—a redwoods national park bill; a bill to initiate a national system of wild and scenic rivers; and a \$1.5-billion rivers and harbors bill authorizing numerous navigation, flood control, and multipurpose dam projects in some 31 states.

The redwoods and scenic rivers bills suffered badly under the cavalier parliamentary procedure employed, while the rivers and harbors bill—the classic pork-barrel measure—rolled through. The redwoods park bill, brought up by Representative Wayne N. Aspinall of Colorado, chairman of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, was pronounced outrageously inadequate by a number of congressmen, but they had no chance to amend it. Their options were either to accept the bill as reported from committee or to risk getting no redwoods bill at all. Most members accepted it, and the bill passed overwhelmingly.

Aspinall seems as concerned to protect California's lumber industry as to preserve some major stands of redwoods. His House-passed bill would create a

28,400-acre park, less than half the size of the 66,384-acre park contemplated in the bill passed last year by the Senate. The smaller park would, moreover, consist largely of redwoods acreage already being protected in California state parks. Aspinall thus will go to the House-Senate conference on this legislation in a position to seek a more modest compromise than would have been the case had the House bill provided for a bigger park. He has promised to accept a park significantly larger than that described in the House bill.



Wayne N. Aspinall

However, neither of the two Democratic congressmen he has named to join him as House conferees—Roy A. Taylor of North Carolina and Harold T. Johnson of California—has been an advocate of a large park.

The scenic rivers bill was rejected by the House, at least in part because the suspension-of-the-rules procedure allowed no amendments. It unexpectedly came under attack from some New York and Pennsylvania congressmen who objected to its designation of the Susquehanna as a stream to be protected from development pending a study of it as a potential scenic river. Aspinall and other sponsors of the measure were willing to drop the Susquehanna from the bill but, under the circumstances, they could not.

How did the House happen to be acting on these bills under suspension of the rules?

Long-drawn-out sessions clearly have become a problem for Congress, and in election years the dawdling ways of many congressional committees exasperate members eager to go home and campaign. The House Rules Committee, from which legislative committees normally seek permission to bring bills to the floor, decided this spring to force the pace of business. It announced on 22 May that, except for emergency measures, no bills reported from committee after 8 July would be considered for clearance to the floor. It indicated that its last regular meeting of the session would be held on 9 July.

This policy had the support of the House majority and minority leadership as well as that of many other members. (The leadership was hoping, though vainly, that the House would be able to adjourn in early August.) As the 8 July deadline approached,

however, a legislative jam developed in the Rules Committee. Numerous bills awaited floor clearance and others were still emerging from the legislative committees. Whereupon Speaker John McCormack and other leaders began urging that as many bills as possible be passed by unanimous consent or under suspension of the rules. Bills taken up under these procedures need not go through the Rules Committee and are disposed of quickly on the floor.

Some of Chairman Aspinall's colleagues suspect him of using the 8 July deadline and the suspension-of-the-rules device as levers to get the House to accept a relatively small redwoods park that would leave as many trees as possible for the chain saw. Such a suspicion was implied by Representative Philip Burton, an Interior Committee member from San Francisco, during the debate that followed Aspinall's calling up of the redwoods bill under suspension of the rules.

"This borders on abuse of the committee process and the rules of the House," Burton said. "The people of this land have been denied their day and their voice in court on this matter regarding a unique and precious national heritage."

When the Interior Committee began its final consideration of the redwoods legislation there was strong support for a more ambitious park bill than the one Aspinall wanted to report. Such is Aspinall's power, however, that his colleagues on the committee do not lightly undertake to override him. Moreover, there was the real possibility that, if overridden in committee, Aspinall might obstruct further action on the bill—for example, by failing to move expeditiously to bring it to the floor and then to conference with the Senate. The best hope of those favoring a larger park seemed to lie in trying to amend the redwoods bill on the floor, but Aspinall then surprised them by bringing up the bill under suspension of the rules.

Aspinall has explained that, with the Rules Committee's close-of-business date of 9 July at hand, time had run out and that to obtain clearance for floor action on the redwoods bill was not possible. But Representative William M. Colmer of Mississippi, chairman of Rules, told *Science* last week that, inasmuch as the Interior bills were reported before its deadline, the Rules Committee would have owed them a hearing had one been sought.

Colmer indicated, moreover, that Aspinall could still get the scenic rivers

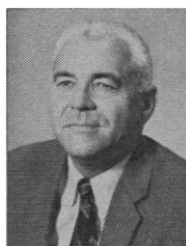
bill cleared for floor action if he wished to bring that measure back to life. At this writing, Aspinall shows no interest in reviving the bill, but Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall will try to persuade him to do so. The Senate passed a scenic rivers bill last year. Aspinall has been a cosponsor of scenic rivers legislation but his attitude toward it is philosophical and detached.

In brief, it seems at this point that both the scenic rivers and redwoods bills have received setbacks through use of a suspension-of-the-rules procedure hotly criticized by some of Aspinall's colleagues. That procedure is clearly of value for the disposal of routine bills or legislation about which there is no controversy. Its use for the handling of these conservation measures, however, may mean that there will be no scenic rivers legislation this year and that some choice redwood forests will not be spared the ax.—LUTHER J. CARTER

## APPOINTMENTS



C. E. Young



W. J. McGill

**Charles E. Young**, vice chancellor of the University of California, Los Angeles, to chancellor of the university; he succeeds **Franklin D. Murphy** who will become chairman of the board and chief executive officer, *Times Mirror* Corporation. . . . **William J. McGill**, professor of psychology and chairman-elect of the University of California's statewide faculty assembly, to chancellor of the University of California, San Diego; he succeeds **John S. Galbraith** who will take a Smuts Fellowship at Cambridge University. . . . **Courtney Smith**, president of Swarthmore College and the administrative head of the Rhodes scholarships in the United States, to president, John and Mary R. Markle Foundation. . . . **LeRoy A. Pesch**, associate dean of the State University of New York, Buffalo, to dean of the school of medicine and director of University Hospitals. . . . **Stanley W. Olson**, direc-

tional Medical Programs, to director of the Division of Regional Medical Programs, HEW. . . . **John E. Sharkey**, assistant manager for administration, Mississippi Test Facility, NASA, to chief financial management officer, National Institutes of Health. . . . **Ralph R. Canter**, Washington representative of the System Development Corporation, to Military Manpower Research Coordinator for the Department of Defense. . . . **Robert R. Hurt**, manager of public information for Smith, Kline & French Laboratories, to vice president of The Worcester Foundation. . . . **Alan M. Portis**, professor of physics at the University of California, Berkeley, to associate director of the Ernest O. Lawrence Hall of Science at the university. . . . **Charles Watkins**, coordinator of development of Louisiana State University School of Dentistry and LSU School of Medicine, to assistant to the chancellor at the medical center. . . . **Richard E. Schultes**, curator of economic botany at Harvard University's Botanical Museum, to executive director of the museum. . . . **F. W. Cropp**, associate dean of the College of Wooster, to dean of the college and vice president for academic affairs. . . . **T. K. Treadwell**, special assistant to the oceanographer and deputy commander of oceanography in the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office to commander of the office. . . . **Donald Oken**, chief of the clinical research branch at the National Institute of Mental Health, to chairman of the department of psychiatry, New York Upstate Medical Center. . . . **John B. Dunbar**, program director for the Health Sciences Advancement Award Program, General Research Support Branch, Division of Research Facilities and Resources, National Institutes of Health, to chief of the Program Projects Branch, Extramural Programs, National Heart Institute at NIH. . . . **W. P. Laird Myers**, acting chairman of the department of medicine, Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases, to chairman of the department. . . . **Cesare Emiliani**, chairman of the Institute of Marine Sciences, division of marine geology and geophysics at the University of Miami, will keep this position and also assume the position of chairman of the university's department of geology. . . . **Warren S. Wooster**, professor of oceanography at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, to president of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research of the International Commission of Scientific Unions.