

# NEWS IN BRIEF

• **DEEP-SEA DRILLING:** Drilling should begin in the next few weeks off the Texas coast in the Gulf of Mexico in the National Science Foundation-sponsored Deep-Sea Drilling Project (*Science*, 28 June). Plans are to drill more than 60 holes during the next 18 months in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans in order to study the sedimentary layers of the ocean floor. Costing some \$12.6 million, the project is managed by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, for the Joint Oceanographic Institution's Deep Earth Sampling group, a five-university consortium set up in 1964. The drilling from a specially built ship, the *Glomar Challenger*, will go to depths of about 20,000 feet. The project resembles the so-called intermediate phase of the canceled Project Mohole, and the top layer of the oceanic crust will be penetrated. Drilling will not reach the mantle, which was the ultimate goal of Mohole.

• **McCARTHY ADVISERS:** Two former presidential science advisers have been named to Senator Eugene McCarthy's new foreign policy advisory panel; they are George Kistiakowski, Harvard professor and former science adviser to President Eisenhower, and Jerome Wiesner, provost of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and former science adviser to President Kennedy.

• **DDT REGULATIONS:** The amount of DDT allowed to remain on food crops going to market will be reduced substantially after 1 January 1969 by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA plans to lower tolerances for DDT, one of the most widely used insecticides in agriculture, from present levels to significantly lower levels, in some cases by more than 50 percent; the change will affect many varieties of fruits and vegetables which are inspected by the Agriculture Department. Products not within the tolerance level will be seized or destroyed. More than one half of all fruits and vegetables sold commercially will be affected.

• **AIR TRANSPORT REPORT:** In the first report of its Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board, the National Academy of Engineering has urged that the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-

ministration (NASA) should be given a major role in conducting civil aeronautics research and development. The board recommended that a comprehensive study of the whole air transportation system be made and priorities set for research and development. The report, which also recommended that leadership in carrying out comprehensive studies be provided by the Transportation Department and the Federal Aviation Administration, was financed by NASA. *Civil Aviation Research and Development: An Assessment of Federal Government Involvement*, is available at \$4 from the Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board, National Academy of Engineering, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C.

• **SHANNON APPOINTMENT:** James A. Shannon, retiring director of the National Institutes of Health, has been appointed a special adviser to the President and to the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on matters relating to programs in both science and medicine. Shannon will take up his post as a high-level staff member of NAS after his 1 September retirement from NIH.

• **RIVERSIDE FIRST:** A new college that will stress a program relationship between basic research in the biological sciences and its application to agriculture will be the first of several interdisciplinary colleges proposed for the Riverside campus of the University of California. The close connection between the new college and the large research program of the Agricultural Experiment Station will provide coordinated research experiences for both graduate and undergraduate students.

• **NEW PUBLICATIONS:** *Exporting Technical Education: A Survey and Case Study of Foreign Professionals with U.S. Graduate Degrees*, a statistical study on the brain drain, may be obtained for \$4.50 from the Publications Division, Institute of International Education, 809 United Nations Plaza, New York 10017.

*The Line Islands Experimental Data Catalogue*, which contains meteorologic data from the Equatorial Trough Zone, may be obtained from the Publications Department, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado.

have special problems. A few private schools like Harvard and Columbia are heavily endowed and still head the list of the "have" schools. It is the poorly endowed private schools lacking state support which are in deepest difficulty. It is from among these schools, perhaps 15 or 20 of them, that most of those on the disaccreditation danger list are drawn.

Medical school accreditation is controlled by a liaison committee made up of representatives of the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Medical Association. Until now, schools in danger of losing accreditation have been discreetly advised of their deficiencies and put on "confidential probation." The committee has decided to discontinue this practice, and from now on those in peril will, presumably, be put on public notice. In practical terms, disaccreditation of a medical school appears about as unlikely as foreclosure of a mortgage on a church. One informant close to the accreditation authorities noted that a medical school in imminent danger of losing accreditation would be so close to internal collapse that disaccreditation would be academic. He estimated that two or three schools, unless their fortunes improve, could be in real jeopardy.

New medical schools—and there are some 17 now in operation—also have unique problems. They have had to recruit whole new faculties. Most of them are state institutions, and some legislatures have provided start-up funds which enabled these schools to be free-wheeling competitors for talent. State support is now being less freely given. At the same time, federal research support has leveled off, and the new schools which counted on a continued expansion of research funds are now facing a period in which, it appears, researchers in established institutions may have the advantage in getting the funds available.

It is ironic that the squeeze on federal funds comes at a time when Congress is taking a sympathetic interest in building health manpower. The view of the average senator or congressman may be parochial. He is probably aware of a shortage of G.P.'s and nurses in his constituency. He may be disturbed by the reliance of U.S. medical service on the flow of foreign-trained physicians. And he probably hears complaints about the difficulty of gaining admission to medical school. The legislators' reaction, however, has been to