

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ● ARCHES OF SCIENCE AWARD:

Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, has been named the fourth winner of the Arches of Science Award, which is given annually to an American who has made "an outstanding contribution to the public understanding of the meaning of science to contemporary man." The award, which includes a cash prize of \$25,000, is sponsored by the Pacific Science Center in Seattle from funds provided by Pacific Northwest business and industry.

### ● COLORADO RIVER BILL:

Conservationists feel they won a victory in the compromise Colorado River bill passed last week after 20 years of regional disputes over water in the Southwest. Although the \$1.3-billion bill provides for extensive water resource development, dams, and irrigation systems on the Colorado River, Congress rejected two proposed hydroelectric dams on the lower Colorado that would have flooded parts of the Grand Canyon. The bill also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to take steps to preserve the Gila Wilderness area in New Mexico. Besides the conservation measures, the bill also provides for a 400-mile system of aqueducts and dams to provide water for arid areas near Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; reclamation projects in Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah; and a coal-powered electric plant to take the place of the Grand Canyon dams.

### ● CAMPUS SANCTIONS:

Under a compromise adopted last week by House-Senate conferees on the \$7.2 million Higher Education Authorization Bill, students who participate in serious campus disturbances could lose federal aid. A major question for conferees was whether or not to make it mandatory for universities to act to discipline students receiving federal aid. The compromise specifies that a university must take action to withdraw federal aid for a period of 2 years from a student who is convicted by a court of crimes resulting from campus demonstrations. (His ineligibility for federal aid would apply at all institutions.) In the case of a student involved in a demonstration on his own campus and who is not convicted of criminal action, the university apparently may exercise discretion in

withdrawing federal aid. At the time of the *Science* deadline the language of the conference report on the sanctions was still being refined but sources on Capitol Hill conceded that the meaning of the section is unclear and that details of its application will have to be worked out administratively by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. It appears, however, that universities may withdraw federal aid when it is established that the student has willfully and substantially disobeyed university regulations or the orders of college officials. Before denying federal aid to a student the institution must grant him an opportunity for a hearing, at which it must be found that the individual's offenses are of a serious nature contributing substantially to the disruption of the administration of the university. No details on how these hearings are to be constituted or conducted are provided. The overall bill still must be passed by both chambers. The Office of Education estimates that 1.4 million students who now receive federal aid in the form of assistantships, fellowships, scholarships, and work-study grants could be affected.

### ● REDWOODS:

A compromise bill to create a 58,000-acre redwood national park, combining three California state parks with \$92 million worth of private timberland, has been passed by Congress and sent to the President. The compromise agreement, a substantial increase over the House's original bill (see *Science*, 26 July), designates about 28,100 acres of privately owned timberland for acquisition and exchange. House Interior Committee Chairman Wayne N. Aspinall (D-Colo.) said the park development is expected to cost about \$10 million.

### ● LISTER HILL CENTER:

A national center for biomedical communications has been approved by Congress as part of the National Library of Medicine. The new center, named after Senator Lister Hill (D-Ala.), retiring chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, will provide doctors, scientists, and educators in all health professions with immediate access, via data transmission lines, to the computer-stored information within the National Library of Medicine. No funds have been appropriated.

to have been held in Prague. Among those canceled was an International Symposium on the 50th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Czechoslovak Republic, but present plans call for going ahead with a number of other meetings, and at this point it is planned to go through with a large series of international meetings scheduled for next year.

The effect of the invasion on the actual conduct of scientific research is difficult to assess, since the troops came in during the traditional vacation season and many institutes were operating more or less on a caretaker basis. There are no reports of any direct interference or intrusions. But as the director of one institute said, "With all the turmoil that we had here even before the invasion, it's been very difficult to keep our minds on our work. I would say that we've done very little work over the past three months." It was especially difficult to attend to work, he said, when the Soviets temporarily stationed several tanks in the institute's parking lot. Other institutes, however, report that their work is on a normal postvacation basis, and so it appeared to be when this reporter strolled through the corridors.

So far there is very little to support any expectation that the invasion would lead to a large exodus of scientists and engineers. Few are known to have left, and, in fact, many who were away at the time of the invasion have since returned. Of those who have remained away or who have since gone, it is said that a fair number are Jews who sense a resurgence of anti-Semitism. The oft-cited reason for staying—the borders are open for exit, and apparently it is at least physically a simple matter to get out—is, as one postinvasion returnee from the United States put it, "This is my country and this is where I want to be." One Academy official expressed confidence that, in any event, the "hard" sciences would be more or less left alone in their professional affairs. "Unlike the writers," he said, "we don't communicate our work to the public. I think we'll be okay."

In any case, a visitor emerges with the impression of a household of warm, intelligent, gentle, and often whimsical people who find that a nasty beast has forcibly taken up residence with them. The intruder won't leave and they won't leave, and so it is necessary to come to terms and work out the best possible arrangement for carrying on with life.

—DANIEL S. GREENBERG