

Wallace worked his way through the University of Alabama, waiting on table, driving a taxi, and holding other odd jobs, and earned a bachelor's degree and law degree. In 1946, after service in the Air Force as a B-29 flight engineer, Wallace was elected to the state legislature. As a young legislator, he identified himself with Big Kissin' Jim Folsom, who served one 4-year term as governor of Alabama in the late 1940's and another from 1955 to 1959. Folsom, who tried without much success to befriend Negroes and poor whites alike by such measures as his proposal to repeal the poll tax, was the foe of Alabama's "Big Mules," the plantation owners and other wealthy men who had long manipulated state politics to their own advantage. During Folsom's second term, however, Wallace, who was still active politically though he had left the legislature after winning election as a state circuit judge, broke his ties with Big Jim. Folsom had by this time gained notoriety for heavy drinking and for once having invited Harlem congressman Adam Clayton Powell to the Governor's Mansion for a glass of Scotch.

Success in Governor's Race

Wallace ran an unsuccessful race for governor in 1958, when school desegregation had become the dominant issue in Alabama politics. Though Wallace has denied it, following his defeat he is reported to have said, "John Patterson [his opponent] out-niggued me. And boys, I'm not goin' to be out-niggued again." In 1962, Wallace again ran for governor, this time successfully, promising that, if necessary to prevent integration, he would stand in the schoolhouse door.

Outside Alabama Wallace is perhaps best known for his jousting with the courts over integration orders, but inside the state many people credit him with some positive achievements on behalf of education. Wallace himself boasts of his record, claiming that no previous governor ever did so much for the state's public schools and institutions of higher learning as he and his late wife, Lurleen, did (Mrs. Wallace, elected in 1966 as a stand-in for her husband, who, under the Alabama constitution, could not succeed himself, died of cancer this past May).

During the 5½ years of the two Wallace administrations the state's miserably low appropriations for education were doubled; teachers' pay was in-

creased by 47 percent; the free textbook program was expanded; the University of South Alabama was established at Mobile; and, further, 15 junior colleges and numerous trade schools were established and made available to students throughout the state by a system of free bus transportation. On the other hand, his critics in the state educational establishment say that Wallace failed to press for adequate revenue measures and has left the state's entire educational system seriously underfinanced.

The public schools suffer from gross disparities and underevaluation in the assessments on which local property taxes are based. Alabama school people have long called for leadership by the governor's office and the legislature to correct the situation, but Wallace never chose really to come to grips with this property tax issue or with other controversial tax problems.

Early in his administration he prepared a package of tax measures to be borne principally by special interests such as insurance companies and building contractors. These interests mounted a fierce lobbying campaign, however, and soon it became apparent not only that the governor's tax proposals were in desperate trouble but that Wallace was making no fight to save them. Predictably, in order to raise the revenues needed for Wallace's education program, the legislature turned to the sales tax, raising it from 3 percent to 4 percent (and later imposing a new 2-cent tax on beer). The state's very low corporate income tax also was increased modestly, but this was accomplished by means of a constitutional amendment, thus making it difficult to raise this tax further in the future.

Last winter, Alabama teachers, white and black, were considering resorting to

AAAS Board Reviews Defoliation Data

The AAAS board at its meeting last weekend made no public comment on the progress of its dialogue with the Department of Defense (DOD) on the use of herbicides in Vietnam. In a statement issued in July (*Science*, 19 July) the board had expressed concern about the use of arsenicals in defoliation operations in Vietnam and urged that "steps be promptly undertaken to initiate detailed, long-term, on-the-spot studies of the regions of Vietnam affected by the use of herbicides."

It has been reported that John S. Foster, Jr., Director of Defense Research and Engineering, replied to the AAAS board, in terms which essentially repeated an earlier DOD statement, that DOD judged, on the basis of information gathered in Vietnam, that no serious long-term ecological effects will occur as the result of the defoliation program, and that the military benefits of the program are substantial. Defense Department officials have told questioners that a full-scale ground survey of ecological damage of areas affected by spraying operations in Vietnam is impossible because of the tactical situation.

Board Withholds Comment

At its meeting last weekend the board held further discussions with Defense Department representatives, including government scientists who had participated in surveys of defoliated areas in Vietnam. The board decided not to release the DOD letter or to make any statement, but indicated it would seek more information from the Pentagon and report to the AAAS Council at the annual meeting in Dallas in December.

The fullest recent official comment on the defoliation program came in a report of a survey of allied herbicide operations which was released in September by the U.S. Mission in Saigon. An interagency committee which studied military, economic, and ecological aspects of the defoliation program reported that herbicide spraying had apparently not caused significant ecological damage and that, while the program had caused substantial economic losses due principally to timber damage, the interagency group had concluded that military benefits outweigh the "unknowns" of the military program.—J.W.