

medical research is excluded). Major research programs at the center include, among others, cosmic ray investigations sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; studies of the earth's upper mantle, supported mainly by the National Science Foundation; and studies in molecular genetics, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health.

The center has had little success in increasing its volume of sponsored research over the past year. Furthermore, what with current cutbacks in federal research budgets, prospects for gains in the immediate future are poor. In a few fields, such as computer sciences and materials research, SCAS has never been able to attract substantial and continuing support, and plans for major research programs in these areas have not materialized.

Moreover, in its first 6 years the center has not had even the educational impact that its financial and faculty resources would have allowed. Only six students have fulfilled research requirements for the Ph.D. at SCAS, and there are only 20 predoctoral students (plus 28 postdoctoral research associates) at the center now. Measured by the goals Berkner set, this clearly is a disappointing record, although SCAS collaborates with other private institutions in north Texas in a closed-circuit educational television network and, as in its programs in space sciences and geosciences conducted jointly with S.M.U., contributes in other ways to graduate education (a number of adjunct professorships at various area institutions are held by SCAS people).

The faculty and staff are not growing in number, and, while there has been no exodus, some people have left. In the present circumstances, if key faculty people such as Francis Johnson or Anton Hales were to leave, SCAS would face a serious problem, for there is now no Berkner, with unrivaled connections in the scientific community, to recruit replacements. The current president of SCAS is Gifford K. Johnson, whose background has been in industrial management.

SCAS has failed to flourish as a center of graduate research (until 1967 SCAS was called the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest) for a variety of reasons. First of all, Lloyd Berkner, for all his talents, apparently did not always show the degree of diplomacy the situation required. For instance, he would speak of his center's "working from the top down" to

improve higher education in the region, with scarcely a bow to the leadership of the local institutions and the progress already being made, such as it was.

The center was set up with a large board of trustees which included a few officials from local universities, but, as some educators in the area noted apprehensively, its major policy-making body was a small executive committee made up principally of Berkner and SCAS's three wealthy founders, Jonsson, Green, and McDermott (Jonsson, who is now mayor of Dallas, has been

this body's perennial chairman). Moreover, the two institutions at Denton—North Texas State and Texas Woman's University—were not represented on the board of trustees at all, even though there were trustees from such distant institutions as Tulane, the University of Arkansas, and even Stanford and the Rockefeller Institute. "Our relationship with SCAS has been unfortunate from the beginning," observes James L. Rogers, vice president for academic affairs at North Texas State.

Furthermore, though the center had

Nixon Speaks about Scientists

In his 3 December press conference in which his appointment of Caltech president Lee A. DuBridge as science adviser was announced, president-elect Nixon made some interesting comments about the alienation of the scientific community from the nation's political leaders, about the possibility of changing the role of the Presidential science adviser, and about the central position of the National Science Foundation. Nixon's comments on these matters are printed below:

QUESTION: Do you think that there has been an alienation between the scientists, by many of the scientific community, from the politicians or from the political leaders of this country?

MR. NIXON: Yes, I would think so. I think there is a tendency, being quite candid, for people in the scientific community and people in the intellectual community generally, if I may use that in its broadest terms, to take a rather dim view of the political operator.

I think we would like to bridge that gap. One of the reasons that I was so pleased to have Dr. DuBridge take this assignment is that I think he will be able to reassure the scientific community that our interest in them is not simply what they can produce, but also in how they can counsel us and how they can advise us. He is going to bring to the White House from time to time—this is one of the projects we discussed in our conversations—leaders of thought in the scientific community not only from the United States but from abroad. They will come to the White House to give me and my associates in the Government a chance to have a dialogue.

We might not become scientifically sophisticated—it was not one of my better subjects when I was in school, I will admit—but on the other hand, we have to have an understanding of this. I am looking forward with a great deal of anticipation to Dr. DuBridge setting up such seminars as he can.

QUESTION: Mr. Nixon, organizationally will Dr. DuBridge have the four jobs that go with the Science Adviser—the present Special Assistant to the President, Chairman of the President's Science Advisory Committee, and so on?

MR. NIXON: We haven't made a determination on whether or not the four jobs will be with Dr. DuBridge. We will make that decision at a later time and, of course, as Dr. DuBridge has already indicated, the National Science Foundation is the major Government effort. I understand that an appointment as the head of that Foundation will be the responsibility of the President in the next Administration.

Let me just say that Dr. DuBridge will be my adviser in determining how these various positions should be filled and in determining whether or not they should be filled by one man or whether we should split the job.