

## NEWS IN BRIEF

● **OE ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE:** The U.S. Office of Education (OE) has established an Advisory Committee on Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility consisting of nine educators with diverse backgrounds. The committee advises OE on the standards and practices of the many accrediting agencies throughout the country so that OE can be fully informed on the eligibility of potential recipients of federal grants. Thus the committee performs a quality-control function, ensuring allocation of grants only to qualified institutions and individuals. The committee does not accredit itself, but could indirectly bring about changes in the policies and procedures of some accrediting agencies.

● **HEW RECORD FOR 1963-68:** In a valedictory report to President Johnson, Wilbur J. Cohen, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, estimated that HEW appropriations have risen by about 150 percent, to \$51.3 billion, during Johnson's 5 years in office. In 1963, HEW funds constituted 18 percent of the federal budget and 3.7 percent of the Gross National Product (GNP); in fiscal 1969, HEW funds will represent 25 percent of all federal spending and 4.8 percent of the GNP. HEW obligations for medical research increased by two-thirds, to over \$1.2 billion, and the number of college students receiving federal financial aid quadrupled.

● **ABM SITE PROTEST IN DETROIT:** Detroit area scientists, with the support of local congressmen and Senator Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.), are protesting three of the Army's proposed ABM missile sites, all located within 20 miles of the city. The protest was initiated on 7 December by physicists Alvin Saperstein of Wayne State University and Bill Hartman of Michigan State University; they are supported by about 20 scientists in the area and by local congressmen John Conyers, a Democrat, and William Broomfield, a Republican, both of whom have requested that the Army hold hearings before final decisions on a site selection are made. The Detroit protest is aimed chiefly at contesting, for safety reasons, location near a densely populated area of a defensive missile capable of carrying a 1 megaton warhead.

students attending high schools, such counseling might be thought to be unnecessary. Nonetheless, in many schools, especially those in poor areas, there are usually too many students for any counselor to provide individual attention. Also, the counselors are often not highly knowledgeable about postsecondary education or aware of the scope of opportunities now opening up for a previously ignored section of society. The Talent Search personnel are able to become expert about postsecondary possibilities, including college placement, in a way that many high school counselors are never given time to do. The centers are probably of even greater importance in helping those who have dropped out or graduated in past years. Such people often feel they have no place to turn if they need help with planning their future.

Talent Search programs, though all federally subsidized by the Office of Education, are sponsored by a variety of local organizations and especially by universities and colleges. Johnson, the national head of Talent Search, views the job of the programs as "to have informed, capable people with power who will put themselves next to kids, make them aware of their options, make sure that they have the experiences to make intelligent choices and the power to realize their options."

Many of the individual Talent Search programs deal primarily with one ethnic group, such as black students in the South or in northern cities, Indians in the West, whites in Appalachia, Puerto Ricans in New York, Jewish students on the eastern seaboard, or Mexican-Americans in Texas and California. On the other hand, many other programs, like that of the highly praised YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago project, serve a number of groups. One of Talent Search's two full-time national staff members, David Witcher, a young black administrator who helped run a program in northern New Jersey last year, comments, "One of the beautiful things about Talent Search is helping poor white students. Talent Search is set up for poor people, deprived people. And deprivation knows no color."

### Characteristics of Centers

Many of the centers were started in 1966 and 1967, operate on a yearly budget of about \$50,000, employ two to four professionals, and rely on

volunteer help. They often give individual counseling sessions to about 500 students annually and talk to many more in group sessions. When they serve specific cities, their offices are usually located in a low-income area.

Project OPEN, which is located on one of the streets which suffered heavy fire damage during the April disturbances in Washington, sponsors a number of recruiting and educational activities in the inner city area including school assemblies and discussion clubs at the high schools and community centers. Those who run OPEN have been skillful in eliciting community support and participation.

Another of the programs that has been energetic in getting out into the community is Project TRY in northern New Jersey, which has been run by Montclair State College. TRY has used the mass media, as well as school assemblies and neighborhood meetings, to spread the word about financial assistance and other matters relating to postsecondary education. It has also persuaded 14 area colleges to reserve places for students identified by TRY and to accept a TRY graduate assistant whose job it is to help interpret the college to the newly admitted TRY students and to explain the students' problems to college authorities.

Many of the centers are linked to their area's colleges and rely on admissions personnel from these colleges for counseling. For example, Project COPE in Boston makes use of the part-time assistance of representatives of M.I.T., Brandeis, Boston College, Harvard, Boston University, and other area institutions. Other centers have hired local college students on federally financed "Work-Study" programs to interest youths in postsecondary education in their own neighborhoods during the summers.

There is a good deal of feeling among those involved in Talent Search operations that these programs must begin to reach poor youngsters well before it is time to go to college. It is believed that, even as early as grade school, young people must be made aware of the vocational opportunities open to them, the possibilities of attending college with financial aid, and of the ways to make their current academic activities serve their goals for the future.

Some centers provide extra activities to expand the vision of those with