

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **LAIRD HALTS ABM:** Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird has directed the Army to halt temporarily plans for ABM land acquisition and construction. Laird's order, which calls for a 1-month review of all major military weapons systems, will give the Nixon Administration time to make its views on the controversial defensive missile system known. Last week, the House Armed Services Committee also moved to stop action temporarily on ABM by announcing that it would not act on the Army's request for site acquisitions in the Chicago and Seattle areas until hearings or investigations have been held. The Senate Armed Services Committee has also indicated that it may hold hearings this spring to allow an opportunity for ABM opponents, including scientists, to express their views.

● **FCC SEEKS BAN ON CIGARETTE ADS:** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has proposed, for public health reasons, to prevent broadcasters from carrying cigarette advertisements on the air. The FCC's action was an unprecedented move toward an eventual ban on radio and television cigarette advertising, on which tobacco companies spend about \$240 million per year. The Commission's action was generated primarily from recent federal agency reports, which have said that cigarette smoking causes deaths and disabilities. In June a 4-year federal law limiting state and federal action on radio and television advertising expires.

● **HARVARD REMOVES ROTC CREDIT:** The Harvard faculty voted 207 to 145 to withdraw the academic standing of its Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program, one of the oldest in the nation. The faculty recommendation would relegate ROTC to an extracurricular activity and terminate faculty appointments.

● **PENTAGON DROPS DEFOLIANT CONTRACT:** The Department of Defense has canceled a \$14-million contract to reactivate an old chemical plant near St. Louis for herbicides production. Defense sources say that the plant, being renovated to produce 8 million gallons of defoliant yearly, was cut because of "reduced estimates for defoliants," and because civilian industry

is expanding to meet the needs. Officials say, however, that the Pentagon's present program of crop and jungle defoliation, which has drawn criticism from some scientists, will continue. In fiscal 1969, the Pentagon allocated \$70 million for herbicides.

● **MORE COLLEGE GRADUATES DRAFTED:** The percentage of draftees who are college graduates with at least one degree has risen substantially. The Department of Defense told *Science* that in June of last year 4.5 percent, or 1100 of the 24,600 draftees were college graduates. By October about 20.4 percent, or 2800 of 13,700 draftees were college graduates. The Scientific Manpower Commission attributes the increase to the change in graduate deferment regulations, which has had the effect of making students with one degree prime targets for the draft; it is also due to the increased number of students who have exhausted their rights to appeals and postponements. The Defense Department has released a 79-page handbook, *Pathways to Military Service for College Men and Women*, which describes opportunities in the military service for college-educated persons. Reference copies are available at university placement offices.

● **WASHINGTON MONTHLY:** A new political magazine that will take a critical look at government operations has been established in Washington, D.C., by former Peace Corps members. *The Washington Monthly*, which will explore the problems of public institutions, including universities and colleges, private foundations, and government agencies, is edited by Charles Peters, published by Joseph Crowley, and has an editorial advisory board headed by Richard H. Rovere. It is financed by private contributors, who include West Virginia Secretary of State John D. Rockefeller IV. The monthly, which costs \$10 a year or \$1 per single issue, may be obtained from The Washington Monthly Company, 1150 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

● **YALE JOINS RESEARCH HALT:** Yale University scientists have indicated they will join M.I.T. and Cornell scientists in a 1-day research stoppage on 4 March to examine government priorities in scientific research.

Through his years as chairman of the education subcommittee, Morse, who was once dean of the University of Oregon law school, added greatly to his expertise on education matters. Morse's replacement as chairman of the education subcommittee, Claiborne Pell, is not an education expert, and has not served on the education subcommittee prior to this year. While Morse is regarded as a sort of genius, even by those who dislike his politics and egocentricity, one Senate observer describes Pell as "a very likeable man but not as much of a heavyweight mentally as Morse." Pell tends to be cautious in his public statements; one friend describes him as "not terribly decisive and something of a hand-wringer."

Pell Is Persistent

Although Pell may not seem as smart as some Senators, he has more of a legislative record than many of his more brilliant colleagues. Perhaps Pell's main political attribute is his persistence—"he keeps at something like a Chinese water torture," one associate commented. "Pell has managed some spectacular things for an unspectacular guy," another says. Although a Senator for only 8 years, he has been instrumental in the passage of the High Speed Ground Transportation Act, the Sea Grant College Act (*Science*, 21 June 1968), and the establishment of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities. Pell has been especially interested in developing high-speed rail transportation in the Boston to Washington "Megalopolis" and in improving the nation's capacity to utilize and explore the resources of the oceans. With uncommon success, he has persuaded the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on which he also serves, to create a subcommittee on "Ocean-Space" under his chairmanship. He also has taken the unusual step of presenting his own international treaty on the use of the seabed for the consideration of the Congress and the Executive branch.

One of the few educational programs with which Pell is identified is one in which high school graduates would be paid up to \$1000 annually toward their fees and other expenses of their first 2 years of college or other educational training. Although Pell will probably do a good deal of thinking in forthcoming months about his educational philosophy, he seems to lean more toward providing aid to individual students than to institutional