

NEWS IN BRIEF

● SENTINEL POSSIBLE FOR

WASHINGTON: Although the Administration has rejected the Pentagon's original plan for an anti-ballistic missile (ABM) system to be deployed in the nation's cities, President Nixon has recommended that at least one city—Washington, D.C.—be in line to receive a Sentinel site. In a press conference, Defense Department Deputy Secretary David S. Packard said that the President is not recommending the Washington site as an initial step. He said this would preserve the option for the President to curtail or reorient the system if arms control agreements are reached. Packard said an ABM site was proposed for the Washington area because the Capital is considered an important command and control center.

● CANCER LABORATORY NEAR

COMPLETION: The National Cancer Institute has announced that a new \$3.5-million maximum-security virus laboratory, designed to study viruses that may cause cancer, will be open soon in Bethesda, Md. The laboratory, which Cancer Institute officials say is the only one of its kind in the world, provides security conditions similar to those used in handling radioactive materials to insure that the viruses, which might possibly be contagious, do not escape into the atmosphere. The Institute has also built a \$200,000 mobile laboratory, which can be moved to any research center in the nation that needs specialized virus-containment facilities.

● SCIENTISTS PROMOTE POLITI-

CAL ROLE: A group of about 100 scientists, mostly physicists, have banded together to take a more active role on political and environmental questions which affect them. Scientists for Social and Political Action, organized by Charles Schwartz at the University of California and Martin Perl of Stanford University, held its first official meeting at the American Physical Society meeting in New York. A move last July to encourage the American Physical Society to take a more active role in politics failed and now scientists who had encouraged political involvement have formed the new group as individuals. A main concern of the group is that scientists have become more and more dependent on the government, particularly the Defense De-

partment, for research funds. Members plan to stress a sharp division between scientific and military interests; they will offer their services as science advisers to local citizens and the government.

● KENNEDY OVERSEES NSF AU-

THORIZATION BILL: Although it has not been announced officially, it is understood that Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) will be chairman of a special subcommittee, which will handle the National Science Foundation authorization bill this year. Kennedy's special subcommittee on science handled the NSF reorganization bill last session.

● PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR SOCIAL

ACTION: The American Psychologists For Social Action (APSA) has been formed to enable psychologists to take action on problems relating to "militarism, racism, and poverty." APSA, which claims about 1000 participants in its activities, was formed at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in September 1968. APSA membership consists of individuals and local groups throughout the country.

● FREE TO FEE:

The Smithsonian's Science Information Exchange (SIE), which receives about 90,000 requests for information on ongoing basic and applied research from scientists each year, plans to charge all users to cover the costs of expanding services. SIE has previously offered subject searches in current research fields without cost to private users. Because of high costs, it limited certain other services to federal users only. Under the new system, the Smithsonian will make available to nongovernment scientists certain previously limited services, such as computer listings, compilations, and catalogs of ongoing research.

● ANTI-ABM:

A telegram-letter urging President Nixon not to approve deployment of the anti-ballistic missile (ABM) system, which was circulated among National Academy of Sciences (NAS) members by NAS members George Wald and Bruno Rossi, was sent to the President before he announced his decision on the ABM 2 weeks ago. The letter now has the signatures of about 270 of the Academy's 845 members.

programs which set precedents for later federal aid measures at both school and university levels.

As President, Eisenhower maintained attitudes shaped essentially by his Mennonite background, a boyhood in a turn-of-the-century Kansas small town, and a military career, most of which was spent in an Army which knew neither global responsibilities nor astronomical defense budgets. The prewar U.S. Army in which Eisenhower served for 25 years was governed by the tradition of the supremacy of the civil over the military authority and the assumption that between wars the standing army would be small and the budgets modest. Officers expected to serve out most of their careers in obscure army posts in the South and on the old frontier; horizons were narrow and prospects limited. It is hardly surprising that Eisenhower's economic, social, and political views leaned toward the fundamentalist. What, in historical perspective, may seem surprising is that Eisenhower and others of his generation performed so well in vastly demanding wartime and postwar roles for which their lives had seemingly not prepared them.

Eisenhower's experience was distilled in his farewell address in 1961, a sort of valedictory to power which is probably the most eloquent and certainly the best remembered of his speeches. His warning against "acquisition of unwarranted influence whether sought or unsought by the military-industrial complex," may ultimately rival in familiarity Washington's farewell warning against foreign entanglements.

Less well-remembered but no less pointed was his caution against the potential effects of what he called the "technological revolution."

"Today," he said, "the solitary inventor, tinkering in his workshop, has been overshadowed by task forces of scientists in laboratories and testing fields. In the same fashion, the free university, historically the fountainhead of free ideas and scientific discovery, has experienced a revolution in the conduct of research. Partly because of the huge costs involved, a government contract becomes virtually a substitute for intellectual curiosity. . . .

"The prospect of domination of the nation's scholars by federal employment, project allocations, and the power of money is ever present—and is gravely to be regarded.

"Yet in holding scientific research and discovery in respect, as we should,