

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ● WEST COAST SCIENTISTS URGE DDT BAN:

Sixty West Coast marine scientists are urging Governor Ronald Reagan to seek a ban on the use of DDT in California. In an open letter, scientists led by John H. Phillips, Jr., director of Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station, called for support of pending state legislation that would bar the use of DDT. California is reported to use more DDT than any other state.

### ● PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL:

President Nixon on 29 May formally created a cabinet-level Environmental Quality Council and assigned it certain priority tasks; the Council is to study methods of solid waste disposal, air pollution, and the harmful effects of prolonged use of DDT. Presidential Science Advisor Lee A. DuBridge has been designated executive secretary of the council.

### ● DADDARIO SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:

A background report, prepared for the Daddario Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Development proposes that a commission be established by Congress to study federal science organization and the desirability of centralizing government science activities. The report discusses alternatives of centralization that have been advanced in recent years and proposes a prototype for discussion. The National Institutes of Research and Advanced Studies, which would combine the functions of the more than 20 government agencies that now handle scientific activities. *Centralization of Federal Science Activities* is available from the Committee on Science and Astronautics, 2321 Rayburn Building, Washington, D.C.

### ● NEWARK TO GET MEDICAL AND DENTAL SCHOOL FACILITIES:

The New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry will soon begin to build a new medical school complex in Newark, which was blocked in part 2 years ago by a racial dispute over the college's plan to centralize its facilities (see *Science*, 19 April 1968). The college will begin construction with the help of a \$35.3 million grant—the largest award ever provided under the Federal Health Professions Assistance Act. The federal grant, which will be

coupled with \$30 million in state money, will enable the school to replace largely obsolete, inadequate, scattered facilities in Jersey City with a modern, centralized \$100 million 46-acre medical complex in Newark. The new medical center will include a basic sciences building, a teaching hospital, and a dental education building. Two summers ago the black community, strongly supported by state and federal officials, blocked the college's attempt to relocate its facilities in Newark until the college agreed to coordinate its activities with community needs. On 10 January 1968, in a letter to New Jersey Governor Hughes, HUD Undersecretary Robert C. Wood and the then HEW Undersecretary Wilbur J. Cohen, set forth strict conditions that were to be met by the college before the grant would be approved. In March 1968, the college agreed to help relocate Negroes displaced by the new school, to hire community persons in the construction and operation of the medical facilities, to provide community health services, and to grant medical scholarships to students in the community. The new medical complex will enable the school to increase its present enrollment from 500 to 800 students; it is expected to provide more than 50 new places for first-year medical and dental students.

### ● PH.D.'s IN BIOSCIENCES GROW:

Although considerably more doctorates were awarded in the physical sciences, a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report shows that the biosciences outpaced the physical sciences with respect to the rate of increase in the number of research doctorates awarded in the 1967–68 academic year. In the biological sciences, the number of degrees awarded has more than doubled to 18.1 percent last year from 8.6 percent the year before. In the physical sciences, on the other hand, the growth rate has dropped from 13.5 percent in 1966–67 to 7.1 percent last year. In 1967–68, about 4600 Ph.D.'s were awarded in the physical sciences and about 3700 in the biological sciences. The NAS report, which was conducted by the Office of Scientific Personnel of the National Research Council, is based on an annual survey of 22,834 research doctorates earned in the 1967–68 academic year.

passing strong automobile safety legislation. As Senator Magnuson and others have demonstrated, doing battle for the consumer is good politics, and few if any consumer-protection issues are more on the public's mind than the smoking and health issue.

● Four years ago a potent coalition of tobacco, advertising, and broadcasting interests was behind the Cigarette Labeling Act. While this alliance still exists, it is showing signs of strain and even some cracks. For instance, the Washington Post Company's several broadcasting stations are now refusing cigarette advertising, and some other companies, including Westinghouse Broadcasting, are doing the same. Recently, *Advertising Age*, an advertising trade publication, called for the tobacco companies to practice better self-regulation in their advertising and observed that "the rest of the advertising business cannot be expected to support unyielding resistance indefinitely."

● The view that cigarette smoking is a threat to health has been supported by a broadening consensus of medical opinion. The membership of the National Interagency Council on Smoking and Health presently includes such groups as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, and the American College of Surgeons, as well as such charter members as the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association. Though it has never joined the council, the American Medical Association last year took a strong stand against cigarette smoking.

In successive annual reports to Congress, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has added progressively to its indictment of smoking. For example, cigarette smoking is now described as the *main* cause of lung cancer in men and as a factor contributing to many deaths from coronary heart disease.

In attempting to cope with the current threat, the cigarette industry's Washington lobbying organization, the Tobacco Institute, is playing on two major themes. One is its contention that to allow the FCC and FTC to go ahead with their proposed rule-making would wipe out cigarette advertising in all media. The industry lobbyists argue that rule-making of this kind could ultimately be extended to other products now being legally sold. According to this view, the advertising of