student body, drawn, on a geographical basis, from the generally well-heeled western section of Paris and its environs, does not, as a whole, look upon the university as a ticket to well-being. Just what role they perceive for it is a matter of contention, but Nanterre, by the intention of its designers, contains an academic population that feels no necessity to come to terms with the world as it is. However, in the case of those concerned about their financial future, there is also the fact that Nanterre is a breeding ground for educated unemployment, since France has few job openings for those trained in the social sciences. As one teacher remarked, "We have dozens of people studying in my field, but every year, no more than two or three jobs become available for them in government or in universities throughout France."

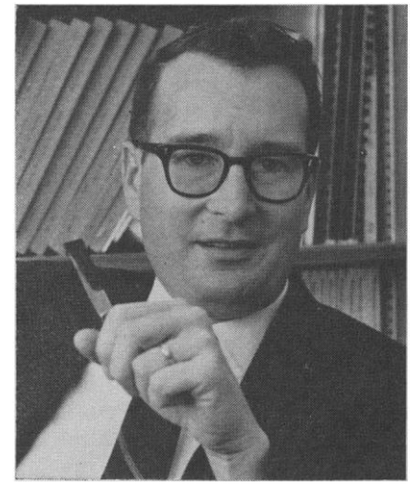
Also grating on Nanterre are the physical aspects of the place. Built to relieve the incredible overcrowding of the Sorbonne when the government decided upon a great expansion of higher education (enrollments in France rose from 202,000 in 1961 to 514,000 last year), Nanterre, resembling a huge, depersonalized industrial establishment, is without charm or many amenities. It is linked to Paris by a 10-minute walk to the station and a 20-minute train ride, and, inevitably, most of those who are there regard it as a place to which they go, not a place they are at. One teacher remarked, "My field exists at Nanterre only on Tuesdays and Fridays."

It is doubtful that any of these local conditions, by themselves, could serve as a detonator. But always looming in the background as an inspiration to outrage is the U.S. role in Vietnam, which is what touched off the Nanterre revolt in the first place. (It was in March 1968 that Nanterre was occupied by students to protest the arrest of five young people following explosions at the offices of several American companies in Paris. Attempts at disciplinary action followed; the protests grew, and finally spilled over into the Sorbonne, which itself had long been rumbling with political agitation.) Like the balloting that has taken place during the past year, the Paris peace talks have had a dampening effect on political activity related to Vietnam. But the talks have been going on for a long time without visible results, and, as is the case in the United States, there is now little faith that the war will soon be settled.

With examinations now taking place, still another election pending, and the educational reform law yet to be fully implemented, a relative calm has come to the student movement. (Nanterre has defused the traditionally explosive setting of massing for examinations by dispensing with some this year, and staging others over a stretched-out period.) But there is nothing to suggest that a durable peace has settled over French higher education. Inflation has

Nixon Chooses OST Deputy Director

President Nixon on 6 June announced his intention to appoint Hubert B. Heffner, of Stanford University, as deputy director of the Office of Science and Technology. The post has been vacant for 5 months—a reflection of problems the Administration has encountered in recruiting science personnel. If Heffner is confirmed by the Senate, as expected, he will become the chief assistant to Lee A. DuBridge, the president's science adviser, who heads OST.



Hubert Heffner

The appointment of Heffner, who is currently a professor of applied physics and electrical engineering at Stanford, marks a break with past tradition of appointing a life scientist to the number two position in OST. The first deputy director was Colin MacLeod, a microbiologist, and the second was Ivan L. Bennett, Jr., a pathologist. Both served under science advisers who were "hard" scientists—MacLeod under Jerome B. Wiesner, an electrical engineer, and Bennett under Donald F. Hornig, a chemist.

Heffner similarly will serve under a "hard" scientist—DuBridge is a physicist. A spokesman for OST said Heffner's appointment does not reflect a lessening of interest in the biological sciences, but rather a feeling that biological thinking is well enough entrenched in the White House science apparatus so that it is not mandatory to appoint a life scientist to the number two position.

Heffner, now 44, has spent most of his student and professional life at Stanford. He received his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from Stanford. After a brief stint at Bell Telephone Laboratories, he joined the Stanford faculty in 1954 as assistant professor of electrical engineering and worked his way up to full professor in 1960. From 1963 to 1967 he served as assistant provost and dean of research. He has authored numerous technical articles on such subjects as electron beam focusing, noise theory, and quantum electronics.

Heffner is currently serving in advisory capacities to both the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. In 1960–61, he served as scientific liaison officer in the London office of the U.S. Office of Naval Research. He has also acted as a consultant for McGraw-Hill, General Electric, Varian Associates, Litton Industries, Raytheon and Lockheed Aircraft.

Heffner has taken a middle road on some touchy issues involving federal science policy. At a panel discussion during the 4 March 1969 confrontation meetings at Stanford, he denounced one activist's proposals as "doublethink" but then went on to call for greater federal support of "socially desirable" research, such as "major innovations in home construction techniques." He also said the advisory panels which allocate federal research grants hold "great potential for misuse" though they have not yet been seriously abused.—P.M.B.