

suggesting institutional forms, reformers might consider the model of the General Accounting Office, the Legislative branch's watchdog on spending, essentially a career organization which has earned both the confidence of Congress and a good measure of independence. If a technology assessment group were to be tied more closely to the committees, allegiance to the appropriations committees, which oversee the budget, would be worth considering.

The panel's concentration on federal decision making is fair enough considering its congressional commission and the fact that 50 percent of industrial R & D is financed by the federal government.

It is sure to be noted, however, that scant attention is paid by the panel to military technology. The panel does say that the military sector appears to harbor "the most glaring gap in our present technology assessment mechanisms." But the summary treatment is explained in terms of the difficulty of technological assessment in classified areas.

The panel's basic assumption is clearly that the benefits of technology outweigh the disadvantages, but that correctives to the decision-making process are urgently needed. A rival view sprouting on the political Left holds that man has become the servant of technology and that the government has failed in protecting the public. The panelists acknowledge that some people "would make modern technology the scapegoat of all social ills," but argue that this pessimistic view arises from an oversimplification of the reality, just as does the euphoric opposite view that technology is a guarantee of universal felicity.

The panel makes no comment on another strain of protest which holds that an educational and scientific elite is using technological decisions to achieve antidemocratic ends. This interpretation of class war through technology is discussed by John McDermott in an article, "Technology: Opiate of the Intellectuals," in the 31 July *New York Review of Books*.

The NAS report is rational, intelligent, optimistic. In essence, it prescribes as innovations an extension of the postwar pattern which brought university scientists into working contact with government as advisers, as researchers, and sometimes as upper-level civil servants. Although the alliance added new dimensions to the

bureaucracy and proved generally satisfactory to both scientists and government, the record of government in guarding the public against the negative effects of technology has not been inspiring. The impact of society on technology in the 1960's has generally been gained through the efforts of superior muckrakers like Rachel Carson and Ralph Nader, or through the actions of indignant individuals or groups often campaigning in the tradition of Don Quixote. The panel seems not to have given very great weight to that experience.

An obvious analogy can be drawn between the problems of technology assessment at the federal level and the perennial problem of setting effective priorities for federal research and development. Both efforts have admirable goals, but neither so far has an effective constituency.—JOHN WALSH

APPOINTMENTS

Rocco A. Petrone, director of launch operations, John F. Kennedy Space Center, to director of the Apollo Program. . . . **M. Scott Carpenter**, former NASA astronaut, to president of the Helium Society. . . . **James H. McDermott**, director, water surveillance division, Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, to director, Water Hygiene Bureau, Environmental Control Administration (HEW). . . . **Eric A. Barnard**, professor of biochemistry, State University of New York, Buffalo, to chairman of that department. . . . **Glen E. Peterson**, professor of biology, University of Colorado, Boulder, to dean, College of Arts and Science, University of Nevada, Reno.

RECENT DEATHS

Elsie O. Bregman, 72; psychologist, formerly at the Institute for Educational Research, Columbia University; 24 July.

Fred D. Butcher, 71; retired State Department entomologist; 3 August.

Leland E. Call, 88; former dean of agriculture, Kansas State University, Manhattan; 18 July.

George E. Davis, 79; retired physicist with the New York Naval Shipyard; 2 August.

William Dubilier, 81; inventor of

the mica condenser used in electronics; 25 July.

Emery T. Fibley, 90; vice president emeritus, University of Chicago; 24 August.

Elizabeth F. Focht, 49; radiation physicist, New York Hospital; 26 July.

Laurence Foster, 66; anthropologist, and professor of history and education, Lincoln University; 15 August.

Magnus I. Gregersen, 66; professor of physiology, Columbia University; 26 August.

Herbert S. Harned, 80; emeritus professor of chemistry, Yale University; 29 July.

Libbie H. Hyman, 80; zoologist and research associate with the American Museum of Natural History; 3 August.

Lessing A. Kahn, 50; research psychologist with the Defense Department; 16 July.

Agnew E. Larsen, 73; consultant on space research, Frankford Arsenal, Pa.; 16 August.

Robert R. Lechleitner, 46; professor of zoology, Colorado State University; 14 July.

Theodore D. McCown, 61; professor of physical anthropology, University of California, Berkeley; 17 August.

Philip M. McKenna, 72; former head of Kennametal, Inc. and founder of the Gold Standard League; 16 August.

Henry W. Meyerding, 84; former president of the International College of Surgeons; 27 August.

Giuseppe Previtali, 90; former associate professor of clinical medicine, Columbia University; 24 August.

Eugene C. Reinartz, 79; former commander, School of Aviation Medicine, Texas; 29 July.

Sophia M. Robison, 80; emeritus professor of sociology, Columbia University Graduate School of Social Work; 3 August.

Emanuel Schwartz, 68; associate clinical professor of medicine, Downstate Medical Center, New York; 17 August.

Margaret K. Seikel, 57; organic chemist, U.S. Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis.; 30 July.

Sydney S. Spivack, 61; research sociologist, Princeton University; 26 July.

Sterling H. Tracy, 70; dean of liberal arts, Belknap College; 25 July.

Fordyce E. Tuttle, 66; physicist and consultant with the Raytheon Company; 5 August.

J. Walter Wilson, 73; professor emeritus of biology, Brown University; 10 May.