

dangered species. Congress has authorized \$200,000 for this purpose.

For any one species, this international convention and the new U.S. law would come into play only at the last minute, if then. The rules would not curb the excesses that deplete a wildlife population in the first place. In East Africa, for example, much of the poaching is done for the domestic

meat market and not for the international fashion trade. In northern South America, the new regulations would not affect local live animal markets that supply the U.S. laboratory and pet supply industry. Some ecologists estimate that only 1 out of 50 birds survives the trip from the jungle to the U.S. market, and the Amazon River Basin, despite its lushness and size,

stands in danger of losing even its common fauna to satisfy U.S. demand for reptiles, monkeys, and parrots. For some animal populations, the endangered species bill may offer little hope for survival.—MARK W. OBERLE

A senior at Harvard, Mark Oberle worked last summer as a Science news intern.

HEW: Blacklists Scrapped in New Security Procedures

In a major reversal of administrative procedure, Robert H. Finch, Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), announced on 2 January changes that would lead to eliminating practices which had led to the "blacklisting" of noted scientists. Among knowledgeable members of the scientific community, the Finch decision was widely praised. Among scientists, the HEW reversal was also regarded as an important victory for scientists in their intimate and delicate relationship with the federal government.

The fact that many leading scientists had been barred from HEW advisory groups for personal and political reasons unrelated to their professional ability was first publicly revealed by *Science* (27 June and 18 July). In the months following the initial disclosure, there has been a rising tide of examination and criticism by the press and by scientists of HEW's investigations of scientists picked to help the department make its decisions on research and training grants. The scientific group which led the fight against HEW's security practices is the American Orthopsychiatric Association, Inc., which has its headquarters in New York City. The group started behind the scenes lobbying with HEW in mid-1968 and switched to a more public role in the autumn of 1969. Among the scientific organizations which gave a measure of support to the American Orthopsychiatric Association in its campaign were the American Psychological Association and the AAAS.

HEW's changes were a result of a study by Undersecretary John G. Vene-man, Jr., and of a report and recommendations written by Harlan Reed Ellis, 26, a research associate at Columbia University and a 1968 graduate of the Harvard Law School. Ellis was asked by HEW to begin his study of the security check system for part-time advisers in September of 1969. Another man who is reported to have played a large part in forcing the revisions through the HEW bureaucracy is Phillips Rockefeller, an assistant to Secretary Finch and a recent Harvard Law School graduate.

"It makes me ecstatic," Ellis said, "Finch has lots of courage. He has taken a step which will make HEW procedures the most reformed in government." Ellis said that Finch had accepted all the strongest recommendations that he had made.

The revisions announced by HEW for the selection and appointment of part-time advisers and consultants include the following changes: (i) The present practice of preappointment investigations by the HEW's Office of Internal Security will be discontinued. (ii) HEW's constituent agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health, The Office of Education, and the National Institute of Mental Health, will be responsible for evaluating prospective advisers and consultants. (iii) "Appointments will be made on the basis of professional competence, that is integrity, judgement and ability." (iv) If an agency has evidence that a prospective appointee has traits that would

so adversely affect the performance of his job as to disqualify him, that individual will be given the opportunity to challenge the evidence either in person or in writing. (v) Instead of the pre-appointment investigation for loyalty, the appointee will be required to sign an affidavit. On this affidavit, Ellis explained in an interview, the individual will signify whether he belongs to an organization advocating violent overthrow of the U.S. Government or personally advocates such action and, in either case, intends to carry out this objective. This affidavit will be subject to a veracity check of FBI files to determine if the prospective appointee has perjured himself. If evidence is found for perjury, the appointee will be given a chance to defend himself.

In announcing the new procedure, Finch said that Ellis's report had suggested that "much of the difficulty was self-imposed by the Department for years, but that we can overcome the difficulties by replacing archaic practices with pragmatic ones adequate to the job. Today's decision is the first step in a long overdue updating of our appointment procedures."

Nobelists Excluded

In his report, Ellis concluded that "no reasonable man would design the present system as it evolved." Ellis said that even if blacklists were officially condemned by HEW leaders that "the operation of the system itself encourages bureaucrats in the bowels of the appointing agencies to make them up and use them anyway." Ellis argued that when Nobel laureates are excluded from government service for whatever reason "The whole operation takes on a Kafkaesque aura in the public mind." M.I.T. microbiologist and Nobel laureate Salvador E. Luria was excluded from HEW advisory groups.

Among his objections to the current HEW security check system, Ellis listed the following arguments: (i) the procedures wasted money; (ii) unofficial

blacklists grew up within HEW; (iii) "The present system is pock-marked with secrecy. Individuals officially do not know that they are being investigated until some question of loyalty or suitability is raised"; (iv) "Criticism of the present system has taken on a momentum of its own . . . the intransigent opposition of a significant group of HEW's clients cannot be ignored"; (v) "the present operation of HEW's clearance system blatantly ignores the constitutional rights of those whom it investigates. Individuals may be excluded for loyalty and suitability reasons which are impermissible. Yet, under present procedures, they may never know that their fundamental legal rights have been violated."

Under the revisions in procedure which Ellis proposed, HEW will now require that each prospective advisory group member will submit a curriculum vitae and three references. Each reference will be asked whether he knows "from personal experience that the prospective appointee possesses certain traits which will adversely affect the individual in the performance of his job or the overall efficiency of the agency."

In his report, Ellis pointed up several little-known features of the HEW security check system. He noted that the current HEW system had its roots in the practices of the Public Health Service (PHS) in the period immediately after World War II. When PHS became part of HEW, preappointment name checks for advisers were continued at the request of the Surgeon General. Soon after, HEW required confidential preappointment name checks for all persons appointed by or with the approval of the HEW Secretary. Although the system continued for 17 years, Ellis noted that the checks were based on a departmental requirement and not on statutory or executive order requirements.

The report stated that NASA, the Veterans' Administration, and the Department of Commerce currently have preappointment investigative procedures similar to the one abandoned last week by HEW. The report also points out that every AEC employee is subject to FBI investigation, but that the NSF had been more flexible than HEW in its procedures for part-time scientific advisers.

In response to a question in an interview, Phillips Rockefeller said that HEW had received no expressions of opposition to prospective changes in

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **PESTICIDE REPORT:** The complete report of HEW Secretary's Commission on Pesticides and Their Relationship to Environmental Health (*Science*, 21 Nov.) has been issued. It contains a number of recommendations on pesticides announced previously, plus eight hitherto-unavailable panel and subcommittee reports covering the uses and benefits of pesticides, interactions, contamination, effects on man and on non-target organisms, and the carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, and teratogenicity of pesticides. The report sounds a number of alarms, including the possibilities of global pollution and the reduction of the photosynthesis process in plankton by pesticides. The report can be obtained for \$3 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

● **ALASKAN OIL PIPELINE:** The House and Senate Interior Committees have cleared the way for issuance of a permit for the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline. An administrative land "freeze" had been imposed along the proposed route of the pipeline, pending settlements of native land claims; the committees had no objection to modifying this freeze so the pipeline could be constructed. The House subcommittee which considered the matter strongly recommended that the Interior Department charge oil companies for inspection costs of the pipeline, estimated at more than \$3 million in the next 4 years, rather than put the burden on the federal government. The Interior Department, which will issue the construction permit, has announced that the issuance will hinge upon satisfactory solution of permafrost problems. Opposition conservationists contend that the 800-mile pipeline could damage plant and animal life.

● **CAMPUS DISORDERS:** President Nixon has asserted that the federal government will not be a campus policeman, even though a section of the recently signed appropriations bill for the departments of State, Justice, and Commerce opens the way to such activity. The bill contains a provision requiring the suspension of federal funds to any student, teacher, or employee at a university or college who has taken part in a campus disorder on or after 12 October 1968. The bill applies only to the \$20 million in aid allotted under its

own provisions, and so would affect relatively few of the nation's college students. The bill also requires universities to certify periodically their compliance with its provisions. Nixon said he preferred the provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1968, which gave the universities greater discretionary powers.

● **SEA-LEVEL CANAL PROBE COMMITTEE:** The Committee on Ecological Research for the Interoceanic Canal has been formed by the National Academy of Sciences to outline in-depth research needed to assess the ecological effects of the proposed sea-level canal. The committee was formed at the request of the Atlantic-Pacific Interoceanic Canal Study Commission, which was established by Congress 6 years ago. The committee, chaired by Ernst Mayr of Harvard, expects to make a report to the canal study commission in the spring.

● **IRS DATA SUPPLIED TO COMMERCIAL ADVERTISERS:** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has fallen under congressional fire for selling analyses of income data by zip code areas to direct mail advertisers. Representative James O'Hara (D-Mich.) has charged the IRS with selling to commercial users tax return information that should be used solely for government purposes. IRS officials say they are reviewing their present policy, under which they have sold the data to other government agencies and to commercial firms for a user's fee of \$2000.

● **Ph.D. PRODUCTION:** Current and projected enrollments are not likely to produce an oversupply of science and engineering doctorates, according to a report by the planning staff of the National Science Foundation. "Science and Engineering Doctorate Supply and Utilization, 1968-80" concludes, however, that many future Ph.D.'s will be likely to work on activities "markedly different" from those practiced by most present doctorate holders. Therefore, students should not be educated solely for research careers. Lengthy appendices give details on current utilization of Ph.D. personnel in science and engineering. The report can be obtained for 50¢ from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

HEW's procedures for part-time advisers. In meeting with scientists in 1968, then HEW Secretary Wilbur J. Cohen cited possible Congressional opposition as a main reason he could not change his department's security check procedures. Cohen also indicated that HEW was required to maintain its investigations for part-time advisers because of the requirements of Executive Order 10450 and because of the Civil Service Commission, a position which is contradicted by the findings of the Ellis report and by the changes announced by Secretary Finch.

Cowardice of Scientists

What are the lessons for scientists of the success in reversing HEW practices in this area? In this reporter's opinion, one of the major lessons is that scientists or other citizens with a major, legitimate complaint against government policy or procedure should not hesitate to challenge it in public.

Obviously, many, perhaps hundreds, of scientists and government officials knew about HEW's security check procedure, but they largely muttered about it in private for 17 years. This reporter did not learn of these practices until 4 March of last year during discussions at M.I.T. when one forthright neuropsychologist, Stephan L. Chorover, alluded to his exclusion by HEW. If Chorover had not stood up then and had not later consented to let *Science* print the facts about the case, the whole HEW security check system might have remained publicly unknown to this day, and nothing would have been done to change it.

What goes for individual scientists goes for scientific organizations. The inertia, timidity, and outright cowardice of many scientific organizations in response to the American Orthopsychiatric Association's appeal for support had to be seen to be believed, even though many of the leaders of these organizations agreed that HEW was behaving in an iniquitous manner. If scientists have a legitimate, important complaint, they should publicize the facts underlying their grievance and make their fight in public. As the decision of Secretary Finch indicates, the federal government is not always such a monster as it may appear.

—BRYCE NELSON

A national correspondent for the Los Angeles Times, Bryce Nelson formerly was a member of the News and Comment staff at Science.

APPOINTMENTS

David Z. Robinson, vice president for academic affairs, New York University, to vice president, Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. . . . **Walter S. Owen**, director, department of materials science and engineering, Cornell University, to dean, Technological Institute, Northwestern University. . . . **Thomas H. Meikle, Jr.**, associate professor of anatomy and neuroanatomy in psychiatry, Cornell University, to dean, Graduate School of Medical Sciences at Cornell, associate dean, Cornell University Graduate School, Ithaca, and associate dean, Medical College at Cornell. . . . **Howard A. Schneiderman**, professor of biology, Case Western Reserve University, to dean, School of Biological Sciences, University of California, Irvine. . . . **Franz K. Bauer**, interim dean, University of Southern California Medical School, elevated to dean. . . . **Philip M. Roedel**, chief, California's Marine Resources Program, to head, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, U.S. Interior Department. . . . **George S. Benton**, chairman, earth and planetary sciences department, Johns Hopkins University, to dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the university. . . . **James C. Warren**, professor of obstetrics and gynecology and professor of biochemistry, University of Kansas School of Medicine, to head, obstetrics and gynecology department, Washington University School of Medicine, Missouri. . . . **Abram S. Benenson**, former professor of preventive medicine, Jefferson Medical College, to chairman, community medicine department, University of Kentucky. . . . **Anthony Travill**, professor of anatomy, Queen's University, to head of the anatomy department at the university. . . . **John W. Oswald**, executive vice president, University of California, to president, Pennsylvania State University. . . . **Dale D. Myers**, vice president, space division, North American Rockwell, Inc., to associate administrator for manned flight at NASA. . . . **Joseph D. Lafleur, Jr.**, senior technical assistant, AEC Headquarters, Maryland, to scientific representative, AEC, Paris. . . . **Edwin M. Lerner**, pathologist and senior investigator, NIH, to assistant commissioner for research and development, Environmental Control Administration, HEW. . . . **Melvin D. George**, professor

of mathematics, University of Missouri, Columbia, to dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Nebraska, Lincoln. . . . **Norman A. Phillips**, professor of meteorology, M.I.T., to head, meteorology department at the institute. . . . **Howard K. Schachman**, professor of molecular biology and biochemistry, University of California, Berkeley, to chairman, molecular biology department, and director, Virus Laboratory, Berkeley. . . . **Willard A. Krehl**, professor of internal medicine, University of Iowa College of Medicine, to chairman, department of preventive medicine, Jefferson Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia. . . . **Harold L. Davis**, senior editor of *Scientific Research*, to editor, *Physics Today*. . . . **William B. Haidler**, deputy head, physics department, U.S. Air Force Academy, appointed head of the department.

RECENT DEATHS

Fuller Albright, 69; professor emeritus of medicine, Harvard University Medical School; 8 December.

Thomas M. D'Angelo, 70; former professor of ophthalmology, Flushing Hospital and the Queens Hospital Center; 20 December.

Francis A. Ellis, 70; associate professor of dermatology, Johns Hopkins University Medical School; 6 December.

James R. Gladden, 58; former chief of orthopedic surgery, Howard University Medical School; 7 December.

Leslie J. Kulhanek, 29; resident in medicine, Stanford University Medical Center; 20 December.

Donald A. Laird, 72; former director, Psychological Research Laboratory, Colgate University; 20 December.

J. Ralph Rackley, 62; provost, Pennsylvania State University; 24 December.

Joseph Slepian, 78; former associate director of research, Westinghouse Electric Corporation; 19 December.

Rudolph B. Thorness, 60; managing research engineer, physics department, University of Minnesota; 10 December.

Arno Viehoever, 84; microbiologist and former head, biology department, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science; 11 December.

Francis M. Wadley, 77; biometrics consultant; Defense Department; 26 December.