

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.