

search to be spent on research relating to the corpus luteum. AID also has given \$3 million to the Population Council for research on a once-a-month hormonal contraceptive method. R. T. Ravenholt, director of AID's Office of Population, and his chief of research, J. J. Speidel, regard recent reports of prostaglandins having been used successfully (by intravenous injection) to terminate pregnancies as encouraging evidence that these compounds may ultimately offer something approaching an "ideal" means of fertility control.

Another long-term approach to contraception regarded as promising is through research on "releasing-factor inhibitors." Releasing factors are hormones produced by the hypothalamus, a part of the brain, and these control the secretion of the anterior pituitary hormones, including those responsible for ovulation and development of the corpus luteum. AID's Office of Population is now moving toward a \$2.3-million contract award to the Salk Institute for research on the chemical structure of the gonadotropin-releasing factors.

Once the chemical makeup of these releasing factors has been determined, it will be possible to try to synthesize chemicals which will inhibit their activity and thus prevent conception or possibly disrupt early pregnancy. Office of Population officials believe that these chemicals could be administered orally once a month and hope that they would cause few of the systemic side effects of the present oral contraceptives. The principal investigator on this project would be Roger Guillemin, a specialist in neuroendocrinology, who has done important pioneering work on releasing factors. Guillemin is now a professor at Baylor College of Medicine but in June he will be going to the Salk Institute, accompanied by several senior members of his present staff. The Salk Institute's program in reproductive biology also is receiving substantial support from the Ford Foundation.

The draft report of Assistant Secretary Egeberg's advisory committee recommends that financial support for contraceptive research—\$45.5 million from all U.S. sources in fiscal 1969—be increased nearly fourfold by the end of calendar 1974, which even then would not approach the current level of support for cancer research. A doubling of support to almost \$90 million is recommended for calendar 1970.

At the present pace, the 1974 goal, which when viewed in the context of all medical research and health care

## House Bill Hits Campus Unrest

The House Armed Services Committee has come up with its own definition of "academic freedom," which includes the absence of student disruptions. It has announced that it does not want any more research funds from the Defense Department granted to schools at which "academic freedom is not permitted."

The military authorization bill for 1971 contains a provision that signalizes the committee's concern. Section 402 bars Defense research funds from schools at which recruiting personnel for the armed services are barred or hampered, unless the funds are a renewal of a project that makes a "significant contribution" to defense.

The bill was passed by the House last week, with this provision slipping by almost unnoticed in the heat of the debate about Cambodia. Now the bill goes to the Senate, which is still holding hearings on the subject but which in the past has resisted such provisions.

According to the House committee's chief counsel, the committee intends to be sterner than the provision would indicate. In its report, the committee declared that it will require a listing by the Defense Department of all research funds granted to institutions where student disruptions have taken place and that, next year, it will consider restrictive legislation unless the Secretary of Defense can implement a procedure to deny funds to those campuses.

The committee is particularly concerned with those institutions "where administrators have condoned, and in some cases approved, heckling, interruptions of lectures, picketing, and other forms of disruption, violent or nonviolent."

The committee justified the denial of funds to these colleges on the grounds that complete academic freedom must be maintained. "Research in our colleges and universities must be allowed to proceed under an absolute assurance of complete academic freedom. . . . In this connection, 'complete academic freedom' means the freedom to present both the pros and cons of any issue without disruption by the proponents or opponents."

The Pentagon has not yet received a request to compile a list like the one mentioned. According to a Pentagon spokesman, about 680 grants for scientific research were given to schools and nonprofit institutions in 1969 by the Defense Department. These grants totaled \$24.7 million.

There have been previous attempts in the House to include restrictive provisions such as this one in bills; these provisions have usually been opposed by the Administration and cut out by the Senate. Opponents in the House are relying on the Senate in this instance, as in previous ones, to moderate the bill, and they are hoping the provision will at least come up for full debate later this spring.—NANCY GRUCHOW

needs may reflect a bit of special pleading by the population specialists, will not be met even though agency contraceptive research budgets are growing substantially. Carl S. Shultz, director of HEW's Office of Population and Family Planning, estimates that the actual commitment in 1970 will be somewhere between \$55 million and \$60 million, although here some \$7 million for research on the side effects of contraceptives is included.

In fiscal 1970, the commitments of AID's Office of Population and NIH's Center for Population Research to contraceptive research will total about \$7.5 million and \$9.4 million, respectively.

AID's population program has been an expanding enterprise within a shrinking agency (the foreign aid budget declined from \$2.6 billion in fiscal 1961 to \$1.4 billion in 1970), in part because such lobbyists as General William H. Draper, Jr., of the Population Crisis Committee have been highly persuasive with Congress. Congress earmarked \$75 million for AID's population program for 1970 and probably will earmark \$100 million for 1971. The agency expects to continue spending about 10 percent of its population funds for biomedical research.

The CPR program now has a high priority in NIH, but some people in