

A similar vote of confidence was expressed by Nicholas Zapple, counsel to Senator Pastore's subcommittee, which originally sparked the appointment of the committee. "I don't think there was any intention to create favoritism for or against the television industry," Zapple said. "They tried to get an unbiased panel. The proof will be in the pudding—how they develop the thing, what kind of studies they do. We have to be fair and see what they come up with. So far I believe they are proceeding properly."

But a number of behavioral scientists are not so confident. Fifteen fellows at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford signed an open letter earlier this month protesting "irregularities" in the appointment of the television committee.[†] The fellows urged Finch "to adopt procedures to ensure that HEW scientific advisory committees include all major relevant viewpoints. . . . We find particularly objectionable procedures that exclude one side of a controversy."

A Dangerous Precedent?

Parker told *Science* that some investigators seem to have been barred from the committee because they had concluded on the basis of their research that "viewing of televised violence does not lead to catharsis of emotions and a consequent lowering of aggressive tendencies." Parker warned that such an appointment procedure "constitutes a dangerous precedent" which "may be used to the detriment of the public interest in future cases involving drugs, safety, pollution or other such issues."

Two psychologists suggested that the Surgeon General's committee was experiencing problems similar to those which Ralph Nader has spotlighted in the federal regulatory agencies. "I feel it's part and parcel of the problem of federal regulatory bodies," said Eleanor Maccoby, professor of psychology at Stanford. "Somehow spokesmen for industry gain influence in them." Similarly, James J. Jenkins, chairman of the board of scientific affairs of the American Psychological Association, called the appointment process "deplorable" and added: "It looks like an exemplar of the old story of the 'regulatees' running the 'regulators' or the fox passing

[†] The signers included Edwin B. Parker, Stanford; Luvern L. Cunningham, Ohio State; Melvin Small, Wayne State; George M. Foster, California; Edwin S. Shneidman, NIMH; James F. Short Jr., Washington State; Amelie O. Rorty, Rutgers; G. William Skinner, Stanford; Sol Tax, Chicago; James L. Gibbs Jr., Stanford; Bernard C. Cohen, Wisconsin; John Flavell, Minnesota; Harold Lewis, Pennsylvania; Dwight Bolinger, Harvard; and Eleanor Maccoby, Stanford.

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **WISCONSIN PRESIDENT RESIGNS:** Fred H. Harrington has announced that he will resign as president of the University of Wisconsin effective 1 October. Harrington said his resignation was long-planned, and that he was resigning because of criticism from the legislature and inadequate support from the board of regents. He has accepted an appointment at Wisconsin as a history professor. Shortly before his announcement, he had been summoned to Washington, along with seven other university presidents, to advise President Nixon on campus unrest.

● **THERMAL POLLUTION:** The Federal Water Quality Administration has announced a strict thermal pollution policy for Lake Michigan forbidding the discharge of any fluid that would raise temperatures at the point of discharge by more than 1° Fahrenheit. The current standard, 3° Fahrenheit, applies to all states, but the new standard would apply only to Lake Michigan. According to an agency spokesman, if the Great Lakes states do not adopt the new standard voluntarily, the agency can impose it after several months of hearings and legal maneuvers. The eventual cost to industrial users of the lake could run to millions.

● **PSYCHIATRISTS ELECTION:** For the first time in its 126-year history, the American Psychiatric Association has elected a black to an association office. Charles Prudhomme of Howard University, Washington, D.C., was elected vice president; he was a leader of the black caucus at last year's APA meeting. Robert S. Garber of Belle Mead, N.J., was elected president; the new president-elect is Ewald Busse of Durham, N.C.

● **SPACE COOPERATION:** The United States has made recent overtures to Moscow aimed at increasing cooperation in space exploration, but the response has been lukewarm. Thomas O. Paine of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration testified at a committee hearing that he has suggested coordination of planetary programs, proposals by Soviets for experiments on our spacecraft, use by Soviets of the laser reflector left on the Moon by Apollo 11 astronauts, Soviet participation in the analysis of moon rocks, and Soviet attendance at the confer-

ence on the Viking Mars mission. Paine also reiterated a readiness to meet to consider cooperative efforts; the Soviet officials replied to this point, agreeing to such a meeting, but deferred discussion of time and place.

● **POLAR RESEARCH:** A report detailing important scientific problems in the north and south polar regions which need to be examined has been prepared by the Committee on Polar Research of the National Research Council. *Polar Research* advocates complete geologic mapping of areas such as the Cordilleran orogen, the Mackenzie River Delta, and Baffin Bay; a study of the circulation and heat budget of the Arctic Ocean; a study of the sea-ice energy balance; and studies concerning meteorology, astronomy, polar geodesy, upper-atmosphere physics, and polar biology and medicine. Copies of the report are available for \$15 from the Printing and Publishing Office, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

● **SOVIET DDT PRODUCTION:** The Soviet Ministry of Agriculture has banned further production of the pesticide DDT "for the protection of food and fodder crops." The order, disclosed in a letter to *Pravda*, apparently does not affect the use of DDT already in stock. The ministry also said it was taking steps to restrict the use of other pesticides, including zinc phosphides, which were recently blamed for the killing of rare wildlife.

● **FOOD ADDITIVES:** The Food and Drug Administration has revoked approval of an unknown number of food additives. The additives had been approved under an old law that was amended in 1958. The additives are not on the "generally regarded as safe" list that was developed in accord with the 1958 amendments, and they have not been approved by specific rulings. Thus, the products "must be examined in the light of current scientific information and current principles," according to the statement printed in the 9 April *Federal Register*. Manufacturers now have 60 days to seek current opinions from the FDA concerning these additives. The FDA has not kept a formal list of the additives but it estimates about 1000 will be affected.