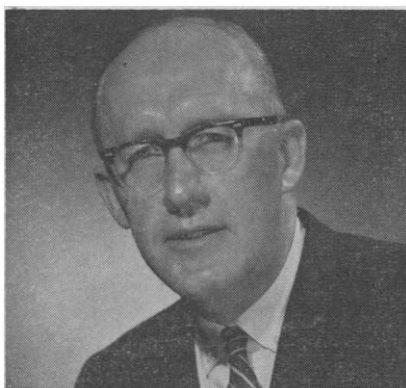


Bisplinghoff Nominated NSF No. 2



Raymond L. Bisplinghoff, dean of the School of Engineering of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will be nominated by the

President as deputy director of the National Science Foundation. He will be the first person to fill the \$40,000-a-year job created in a reorganization plan enacted 2 years ago. George S. Hammond, chairman of the division of chemistry and chemical engineering at Caltech, was considered for the post earlier but was informed that his name would not be sent to the Senate after he had criticized U.S. operations in Cambodia (*Science*, 5 June). Bisplinghoff served as an associate administrator of the space agency from 1963 to 1965, then as assistant to the administrator until 1966 when he returned to M.I.T.

the laboratory's "affirmative action" program which seeks to assure equal opportunity to racial minorities. Though racial policies are clearly controversial and though the "affirmative action" program clearly has a social goal, the committee concluded that the program is "part of our mission" since it is "imposed by national and agency policy."

But the committee went on to ask: "Should we introduce in addition problems of a political and social nature outside of our assigned mission?" It answered: "We believe not. Moreover, we know from our sampling of Laboratory opinion that substantial numbers, perhaps a majority, of Laboratory employees would resent our doing so with varying degrees of emphasis. Thus, introduction of such discussions into the Laboratory proper will almost certainly lead to estrangement and division among Laboratory employees which we feel will, in the long run, impair the efficiency of our Laboratory and the solidity of its support by the community and the nation."

The committee said that while all citizens have the right to engage in social and political advocacy, laboratory employees can easily exercise those rights on the nearby Berkeley campus or in the community. The committee disputed the view that the laboratory should emulate the campus by having an open discussion policy subject only to rules governing the time, place, and manner of meetings. It suggested that enforcement of such rules would be

difficult, and it added that, while the laboratory is part of the university, "it does not necessarily share with it the entire university mission, i.e., the critical examination of all aspects of society." Lab Director McMillan, on 10 March, accepted the committee's recommendations and designated several bulletin boards as appropriate places for notices about meetings that were to be held "away from the Laboratory."

The decision upset a number of people, including Owen Chamberlain. "I'm very distressed," Chamberlain told *Science*. "It raises a question whether I can continue with the Lab. Free speech is very important to me. In good conscience I can't be attached permanently to an institution that won't permit discussion of these issues."

Chamberlain argued that the prohibition will be "very harmful" to the proper functioning of the laboratory. "I claim it should be a standard function of the laboratory staff to discuss where all forms of science are taking us, whether this involves chemical pesticides or smog or new fuel systems or nuclear weapons policies," Chamberlain said. "These ought to be standard topics of discussion around the laboratory. Of course it's not the primary business of the laboratory, but as scientists we should be concerned with where science is taking us—especially with all the complaints from graduate students that scientists are just gadget makers who pay no attention to the implications of their work."

Chamberlain finds it "intolerable" for the Zackay committee to argue that "we are surrounded by areas where free speech is allowed so we don't need it at the laboratory." Besides, he added, the Berkeley campus is just far enough away to make it virtually impossible to schedule lunch-hour meetings there. Chamberlain took his complaints to the Academic Freedom Committee of the Berkeley faculty last March. He expects the committee to render a judgment this fall, but whether the committee will have much influence over the Rad Lab remains to be seen.

A more frontal assault on the restrictions was launched this summer by Charles Schwartz, a controversial physics professor from Berkeley who has a summer appointment at the Rad Lab. Schwartz had been active in helping to put out "The Real Lab News," an informal mimeographed newspaper that began publication in March in an effort to promote "free speech" at the Rad Lab. He takes delight in being something of a "bête noire" on the Berkeley campus. He has led demonstrations at Livermore; he flamboyantly gave up an Air Force research grant when the Air Force refused to assure him that the work was unrelated to military functions; and he was officially reprimanded in May by Chancellor Roger Heyns for requiring his students to take an oath that they would not cause "harm to man" through their scientific work.

Schwartz decided that "the best way to protect free speech is to exercise it," so he scheduled a series of noon-hour seminars at the laboratory to discuss problems involving science and politics. He asked McMillan for permission to use the main auditorium, but was turned down. And then a battle of wills and memos began. Schwartz posted a notice that the first meeting would be held in the auditorium on 2 July. McMillan asked him not to hold the meeting. Schwartz said he intended to hold it anyway. McMillan sent out a memo that the meeting violated laboratory policy and was therefore canceled. Schwartz sent out a memo saying he still intended to conduct the meeting. And so it went.

On 2 July, the day the meeting was scheduled, McMillan had the auditorium locked up. Schwartz therefore conducted the meeting outside, on the lawn near the cyclotron. Chamberlain requested, and was granted, the privilege of opening the meeting with a brief talk on the value of free speech.