

## NEWS IN BRIEF

● **BOOKS FOR THE ORIENT:** The Asia Foundation, which has channeled American contributions of books and money to students in Asia over the past 15 years, seeks donations of books published since 1958 and of professional and technical journals covering 10-year periods, beginning in 1946, for distribution to institutions and individuals in Asia. Further information may be obtained from Books for Asian Students, 451 Sixth Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94103. Telephone: (415)-982-4640.

● **AAS MULTIPLIES:** Scientists in Colombia have formed a Colombian Association for the Advancement of Science (ACAC) in cooperation with the Universidad Industrial de Santander. The ACAC address is Air Mail Box 783, Bucaramanga, Colombia, S.A.

● **YOUTH FOR SST:** Engineering students at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor have organized a group called "Fly America's Supersonic Transport" (FASST) to "set the record straight on the current SST controversy." FASST plans to publish a national newsletter and hopes to start chapters on other campuses.

● **CALTECH LIBERATED:** The 50-year all-male undergraduate tradition of the California Institute of Technology was broken this fall when 31 women were admitted to the undergraduate population of 756. Women have been accepted as graduate students since 1953.

● **OCEAN POLLUTION:** President Nixon plans to ask the next Congress for laws governing ocean dumping, which are suggested in a report, released last month, by his Council on Environmental Quality. The report cites a "critical need" for a national policy on ocean dumping, calls for an immediate ban on dumping of toxic wastes, and proposes regulations governing all dumping in the oceans, estuaries, and Great Lakes. The bulk of dumped matter consists of dredge spoils—muck from harbor and river bottoms containing industrial, municipal, and other pollutants. Other debris comes from industrial wastes, sewage sludge, construction debris, solid waste, explosives, and radioactive waste. The report, "Ocean Dumping: A National

Policy," can be obtained for 55 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

● **DISARMAMENT RESEARCH:** The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has announced a 3-year program of grants to support doctoral dissertation research in the social and behavioral sciences related to arms control and disarmament. Funds are provided by the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA). The grants committee hopes to attract a wide range of historical, experimental, theoretical, and observational approaches to the problems of international conflict and arms limitation. Further information may be obtained from the Division of Behavioral Sciences of the NAS, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20418.

● **EXCHANGE WITH FRANCE:** The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced that six young doctoral scientists will go to France for 5 to 15 months of study and research, and four French scientists will come to the United States under a bilateral exchange program inaugurated last July. Each country will provide its scientists with travel money and stipends, but host institutions will receive funds from their respective governments to pay for space, supplies, and equipment. The program came about as a result of visits early this year between President Nixon and French Premier Pompidou. Recent doctoral scientists interested in future participation in the program may address inquiries to NSF's Division of Graduate Education in Science, Washington, D.C. 20550.

● **IN DEFENSE OF NATURE:** *Environmental Law*, a new journal concerned with the application of law to problems of the environment and ecology, is being published twice yearly by the Northwestern School of Law and Lewis and Clark College in Oregon. Subscriptions are \$6 per year or \$3 per issue (there will be three issues in the first year of publication) and copies may be obtained from the Northwestern School of Law, 10015 S.W. Terwilliger Boulevard, Portland, Oregon 97219.

Taiwan to make a study of scientific resources and needs.

At about the same time Billings' interest in things Chinese had been reactivated when he had been instrumental in getting red tape cut to permit a delegation from the war college on Taiwan to visit Aerospace. This led to an invitation to Billings to come to Taiwan to lecture and to other contacts. One other coincidence was that Billings had known Hornig since the latter was a graduate student.

The Hornig mission to Taiwan had recommended, among other things, that a "continuing point of contact" with the Chinese government be created. And in May of 1968 Billings got a phone call from the White House asking him to take the job. The way it was put was that Billings would be expected to conduct an experiment in inventing ways to increase the flow of science and technology to a country no longer receiving aid. In engineers' jargon, Taiwan would be a "test bed" for postaid countries. Billings accepted the offer and took leave from Aerospace.

In giving Billings his official persona, Washington seems to have been less bound by the bureaucratic book than usual. It was decided, for example, to affiliate him with the State Department rather than with AID or Commerce, presumably because officials gain face by association with State. His title is a double-barreled one. He was made special assistant to the ambassador for science and technology, which gave him a solid footing in the embassy. But probably more important, he was named American commissioner on the Joint Commission on Rural Reconstruction (JCRR). Originally set up by President Truman and Chiang Kai-shek to handle Marshall Plan funds on the mainland, the JCRR administered a successful land reform plan on Taiwan in the early 1950's and served with notable success as a planning and development agency for agriculture, a key sector of the Taiwanese economy. The JCRR has unusual flexibility for a Chinese government bureau and is regarded as an elite agency. Appointment as commissioner gave Billings direct entrée to Chinese government officials.

For Billings, assignment to the JCRR was initially intimidating. He says he felt he had to learn about farm credit, fertilizer, rice, and breeding pigs. And this, he says, was "pretty unnerving for a city boy like me." Billings immediately hit it off well with JCRR