

versity faculty-student research team this year recommended that Marin and San Mateo counties establish permanent forest zones in which tax assessments would be based on the actual income from logging and recreational uses.

According to a 1969 Forest Service review of state property tax laws, about a half dozen states assess timberlands on the basis of their present use, rather than their potential use. In cases where a property owner stands to benefit financially from a change in land use, some states impose a "rollback" tax covering several past years, whereby the landowner loses the tax savings he has gained under the "present-use" assessments.

But, while some states and local governments have been trying to adjust their tax policies in such a way as to discourage speculation on farm and timberland, these efforts are producing mixed results. California has a Land Conservation Act intended to maintain "agricultural preserves" by contract between county governments and landowners. Commenting on this law, the Stanford study team observes: "... in the absence of permanent zoning, it functions mainly as a delaying tactic. Once a few landowners have started housing developments within an agricultural preserve, it may be anticipated that many other owners will fail to renew their contracts . . ."

Progress on a broad front in overcoming the kind of forestry problems discussed here may not be achieved without a national land-use policy. The Senate Interior Committee bill, sponsored chiefly by Senator Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), would require each state to establish a land-use planning and control agency. Such an agency could be expected to become, early on, one of the most powerful, most controversial, and—if wisely administered—most useful state agencies. As now drafted, the Jackson bill would require states to consult with federal agencies in preparing their land-use plans, but federal approval of the plans would not be required. Ultimately, as the national land-use policy evolved, some mandatory federal standards might very well be imposed on the state planners and some of those standards could reach to forestry practices and the tax treatment of forest lands.

The idea of national forestry practices legislation is by no means new. The "cut-and-get-out" philosophy that

## NEWS IN BRIEF

● **HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN EXCHANGE:** The National Academy of Sciences and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences have reached agreement on a scientific exchange program after 4 years of negotiations. The program calls for exchange visits by scientists, including mathematicians, engineers, and behavioral scientists. On an annual basis, the visitors will spend collectively a total of 40 working months in each country. They will give lectures and undertake surveys and research during visits which will range from 1 month to a year. Similar understandings already exist between NAS and Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece, and the U.S.S.R.

● **HARVARD SETS RESEARCH GUIDELINES:** The Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University has adopted six criteria governing the support by outside agencies of research within the university. The rules represent a codification of policy followed since the end of World War II. They state that the source of sponsorship and the nature of research must be such that they can be publicly disclosed; that the ethics and techniques of such research must have prior sanction from the university; and that Harvard provides no institutional endorsement of the results.

● **AEC TIGHTENS LICENSING:** The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) has revised its policy on licensing of nuclear power plants to provide for fuller consideration of environmental issues. In accordance with the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1970, the AEC has added the following requirements: (i) certification that an applicant conforms with federally approved state water pollution control standards; (ii) consideration of environmental objections raised by any party to the issuance of a construction permit or operating license; and (iii) preparation of environmental statements on all proposed construction sites. The new license requirements apply retroactively to plants which have been previously licensed.

● **JPL OPENING UP FACILITIES:** The Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology has formally announced that certain of its facilities are available to qualified in-

vestigators from the academic community. The equipment includes microscopes, spectrometers, and the facilities of wind tunnels, vacuum chamber, hypervelocity laboratory, and image-processing laboratory. Investigators are expected to help defray expenses, but limited funding will be furnished in some cases by the Laboratory.

● **PILOT POLLUTION CURRICULUM:** Charles County Community College in La Plata, Maryland, has received a grant of \$76,550 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for development of a new interdisciplinary curriculum in estuarine resource technology. The grant is the first of its kind NSF has awarded to a junior college. The college, which is located near the Potomac River and has an on-campus sewage treatment plant, claims it is the only junior college in the country now offering an associate of arts degree in pollution abatement technology. About 25 students are expected to enter the 2-year program next fall.

● **BUDGET ADVISERS CRITICIZED:** The House Committee on Government Operations has issued a report accusing industrial advisers to the Bureau of the Budget (now the Office of Management and Budget) of stalling for nearly 7 years a major program to curb industrial pollution. The report says the Advisory Council on Federal Reports, an industry-dominated council set up in 1942 to advise on the Bureau's information-gathering activities, has opposed and delayed procedures for conducting an inventory of water pollution caused by industrial wastes. In an article in *Science* (3 July, p. 36), a Senate aide criticized the Bureau's advisory committees for failing to represent consumer interests and for conducting their affairs in undue secrecy—charges rejected as out of date and invalid by budget director Robert P. Mayo.

● **NEW PUBLICATION:** *Prospects of Engineering and Technology Graduates—1970* presents results of a survey which shows that salaries are going up despite the national economic slowdown. Copies of the survey are available for \$2 from Engineers Joint Council, Department "PT," 345 East 47 Street, New York 10017.