of Nuclear Education and Training in AEC managed to rescue the almost-dismembered reactor when the Louisiana State University offered to take it intact.

AEC will close down the Princeton-Pennsylvania Accelerator on the Forrestal campus at Princeton on 30 June 1971. Movable items (shielding blocks, magnets, and power supplies) are going to other AEC projects. Such surpluses as reels of cable have gone to a government storehouse in Belle Meade, New Jersey. But the building and accelerator themselves, says Milton G. White, the director, amount to "just a white elephant." They will be turned over to Princeton.

A case of equipment in limbo is the AEC's Cambridge Electron Accelerator (CEA), used by Harvard, M.I.T., Tufts, and other schools in the Boston area. CEA's budget was cut by 30 percent to $2.35 million in fiscal 1971. Its executive committee decided to focus on colliding-beam work and to cut out unrelated experiments by other user groups. But the committee also made a policy decision to maintain a capability for going back to its former variety of physics research projects. According to C. W. Woodredge, who is assistant to the director, these decisions have minimized staff shrinkage to a present level of 115, including 12 Ph.D.'s. But about a dozen high-powered magnets, some originally valued at $100,000, are standing around on a "partly used" status—awaiting more prosperous times.

► The National Science Foundation (NSF) has one of the most active programs for moving used equipment into the hands of scientists. For example, it arranged for a team at Pennsylvania State University on a small meteorological grant to receive an Army M33 radar unit, worth $478,000, to track wind currents. From 1961 to 1970, NSF's property program rose from a meager $500,000 to $49 million. The Project Property Section aids the potential recipient by making available relevant lists, screens some lists on his behalf, simplifies his paperwork, and arranges for title to the property to pass to him as soon as NSF is notified of the property's delivery. ¶

NSF also tries to rescue items from the GSA system and find homes for them. Junk dealers wanted to pay $5000 for the San Francisco computer memory cores valued at $5 million, a spokesman said, but NSF arranged for them to go to the University of Oregon for the cost of transport only.

► NIH handled $3 million in excess and used property last year, and recycled about half of it. Some medical equipment becomes outdated very fast. Thus, centrifuges that are a few years old have a market value of zero; meanwhile NIH is buying new ultracentrifuges that cost up to $45,000 for its contractors.

NIH is running a cleanup campaign to dispose of excess property. To encourage physicians' interest at their Bethesda warehouse, a blond mannequin is on duty at the door, promoting used sterilizers, iron lungs, isolation units, and furniture.** NIH made $915 last year by selling to a commercial dealer the silver residue that collects on x-ray films. Another economy is collecting and selling old IBM cards. Last year 99,870 pounds were sold to paper processers.

► Major switches among programs are the chief factors that cause NASA's excess property volume to swell. Total excess among NASA's nine major installations, and reported to GSA, peaked in 1968 when the equipment-laden Gemini program was finally phased out, even though the overall NASA budget was higher than it is now. Unlike centrifuges and reactors, used Gemini capsules and rockets have a symbolic value—hence a secondhand market. "Everybody wants a rocket for their park," says a spokesman, "just as after the war everybody wanted a tank."

To convert or not is the unanswered question causing some NASA equipment to be gathering dust at the site of its former Cambridge Electronics Research Center. NASA closed the Center on 30 June 1970, and it was taken over by the Department of Transportation (DOT). NASA could not simply pull out its $28 million investment in equipment and move it

¶ For further information write to Paul Ashby, Property Officer, National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C. 20550.

** For further information write Property Utilization, Supply Management Branch, National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

Open University Is Born

The Union for Experimenting Colleges and Universities at Antioch College has announced the start of an unconventional program in higher education, University Without Walls (UWW), which is designed to make college-level education more flexible and available to persons of all ages from 16 to 60 and over. Nineteen colleges and universities are participating. *

Each UWW student will be assigned a "teacher-adviser" who will help him work out a learning program tailored to his needs. In addition to classroom work, students will engage in independent study, fieldwork, and part-time jobs. The program will make extensive use of an "adjunct faculty" of outside professionals in business, science, government, and the arts.

In essence, UWW represents an attempt to promote education as a cradle-to-grave process uncircumscribed by time or space. Each of the participating institutions will have its own UWW program (most starting next fall with about 75 students apiece), but students will be able to take part in and use the resources of other UWW programs. The Union, headed by Samuel Baskin of Antioch College, has received $400,000 from the Ford Foundation, supplemented by $415,000 from the Office of Education, for planning and developing the program. The projected yearly tuition is $2650.

UWW is one of four innovative higher education projects that have received a total of $2.5 million from Ford and the Carnegie Corporation. The others are a state-run program of "external degrees" in New York; a new, nonresidential college of the State University of New York; and a study of the idea of the external degree, to be conducted by the Syracuse University Research Corporation.—C.H.

* They are: Antioch, Bard, Chicago State, Friends World, Goddard, Loretto Heights, Morgan State, Northeastern Illinois State, Roger Williams, Skidmore, Staten Island Community, and Stephens colleges; New College (Sarasota, Fla.); universities of Massachusetts, Minnesota, and South Carolina; and Howard, New York, and Shaw universities.