

money would add more to our cultural progress by being given to promising scientists or writers, to help them in completing worthy works, than by being given to people for work, no matter how worthy, which is already finished.

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## Federal Land Releases

On 13 April over half the 3600-acre site of Argonne National Laboratory was abruptly declared to be excess federal property. This was an important step in the physical dismantling of an important national resource. Argonne is a multi-program laboratory established 25 years ago by the Atomic Energy Commission and charged with special responsibilities for the development of nuclear power reactors. The land release at Argonne accelerates the transfer of responsibility for research and development in nuclear power to private enterprise. Moreover, the loss of control over the released land, which completely encloses the developed laboratory site, greatly reduces Argonne's flexibility in the choice of programmatic responsibilities and prevents it from continuing, much less expanding, its ecological efforts. Recent land releases have also been reported at Brookhaven National Laboratory and at the Savannah River facility of the Atomic Energy Commission.

An important mechanism for the control of federal programs by executive action can be recognized in the authority of the Property Review Board, established last year by executive order to make recommendations to the President regarding the use or disposal of federal property. The use of executive power to reduce the level of effort and to alter the priorities in federal programs is a subject of increasing concern. Immediate congressional investigations seem to be essential to reveal (i) policy and program changes that are entailed in these and other administrative decisions about changes in land use and (ii) the extent to which the provisions of section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190) are being followed in these actions.

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