

will depend on how much support it can muster in the Congress, which has initiated most advances made in the national marine program during the past 12 years. Right now support in Congress for refashioning NOAA into a powerful agency through legislation would probably be limited to a small group of individuals led by Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.), Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), and Hollings (D-S.C.) on the Senate side and Alton Lennon (D-N.C.) and Charles A. Mosher (R-Ohio) in the House, all of whom have oceanography subcommittee responsibilities. "It is very unlikely that they would be able to get a majority in either House to do anything that would inject us into the oceans in a big way at this time," said one Senate aide.

The congressional committees to which NOAA reports are as diverse as NOAA is fragmented. "The committee chairmen are just not about to give up anything within their jurisdiction," said John M. Drewry, who retired recently after 10 years as chief counsel of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. The report of the Stratton Commission, which originally proposed the creation of NOAA, states that the reorganization of federal agencies to provide a coherent focus for marine activities can be successful only if major adjustments in committee jurisdictions are made.

Moreover, unlike some other agencies, NOAA does not report to Congress for an annual authorization. If NASA, for example, can sell its programs to Representative George P. Miller ‡ (D-Calif.) of the NASA Oversight Subcommittee, Miller will fight for them. NOAA reports annually to Representative John J. Rooney's (D-N.Y.) Appropriations subcommittee, where the primary reflex is to cut budgets.

NOAA's prospects for extending its authority also hinge on whether it gets control over research and management in the coastal zone, according to Wenk, who is not alone in his assessment of the importance of the coastal zone to NOAA. Environmental concern coupled with continuing tight budgets are focusing whatever attention is being paid to the oceans on the coastal zone, the 17,000-mile strip where the land and its people meet the sea and the Great Lakes. Conservationists say that unless the coastal zone is properly managed, adverse practices such as filling

in the wetlands, helter-skelter commercial developments, and dumping pollutants into the bays, gulfs, and estuaries will cause irrevocable ecological changes.

White wants authority over the coastal zone, but so far he has been unwilling to publicly undercut the Administration's position on this issue. The Nixon Administration is recommending that responsibility for land use management, which would include the coastal zone, be assigned to Interior. Although White was a member of a four-man panel of the Stratton Commission, which recommended giving coastal zone responsibilities almost exclusively to NOAA, he completely reversed his position during hearings last month before the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. The NOAA administrator testified that the Department of Commerce supports the Administration's proposed Land Use Planning Act, and "it makes great sense to us" (NOAA). Chairman Lennon, whose committee is considering coastal zone bills paralleling the Stratton Commission recommendations, called White's reversal an apparent situation of "institutional restraint." Senator Hollings, who also advocates placing the coastal zone under NOAA, reportedly does not intend to invite White to address himself to the question directly before his Subcommittee on Oceans and Atmosphere, because he and other subcommittee members feel certain White would again support the Administration at NOAA's expense.

Placing the coastal zone under Interior could stunt NOAA. "To subdivide the marine environment artificially and assign the coastal function to another agency would renew wasteful splintering that NOAA was intended to correct," Wenk said in a speech last fall. If debate over whether Commerce or Interior should have jurisdiction serves to delay passage of any coastal zone policy, which now seems likely, the national oceanographic program as a whole will suffer.

Without a national coastal zone policy, the opportunity to exercise management may vanish within a few years, Wenk said. The states need federal seed money as well as a national policy to give them the political courage to buttress themselves against the vested interests trying to prevent coastal zone management, he said. Similarly, some advocates of a major developmental program in the oceans say the technological base constructed by in-

dustry during the 1960's will also disappear unless the Nixon Administration demonstrates commitment in terms of leadership, policy, and funding.

Even NOAA's enemies recognize that sooner or later the United States will have to mount a major national effort to explore, utilize, and conserve the resources of the oceans. Conversely, NOAA's most ardent promoters admit that an ocean program designed according to the space model would be undesirable. However, the idea that this nation's oceanographic effort will get out of the doldrums during the 1970's is, at best, more of a hope than an expectation. As Feenan Jennings, director of the International Decade for Ocean Exploration, predicted, "It looks now as though the timetable for a major marine thrust will be more like 20, 30, or even 40 years from now."

—JUDY CHASE

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RECENT DEATHS

Nathan W. Ackerman, 63; clinical professor of psychiatry, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; 12 June.

Thomas A. Baker, 78; former dean, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Delaware; 29 April.

Jack Bangs, 57; clinical professor of audiology and speech pathology, Baylor University College of Medicine; 2 May.

Alan M. Bateman, 82; professor emeritus of geology, Yale University; 11 May.

R. Keith Cannan, 77; former chairman, medical sciences division, National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences; 24 May.

Ralph Cleland, 78; emeritus professor of botany, Indiana University; 11 June.

Rolla E. Dyer, 84; former director, National Institutes of Health; 2 June.

May G. Wilson, 80; professor emeritus of clinical pediatrics, Cornell University; 14 June.

Jane R. Winer, 52; assistant professor of rehabilitation medicine, Mount Sinai Medical School; 7 June.

Erratum: In the article "Lead Poisoning: Zoo animals may be the first victims" (p. 130, 9 July), an erroneous figure was given in column 3, paragraph 3, lines 5 and 6. It should have read 3900 micrograms per gram of dry weight.

‡ Miller is also chairman of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics.