and the science adviser having lunch together every day is a dream world. Magruder's job is completely independent of David's status."

After the theories and denials of a palace revolt subside, however, what will be left is the technology initiatives study itself. Although many of those involved with the work are fairly tight-lipped, the project, particularly in its post-Magruder phase, seems to be an interesting attempt to square the swords-into-plowshares idea with the national economic situation.

The project (*Science*, 27 August) consists of an amorphous collection of interagency groups and task forces, often drawn from staffs fairly high up in particular agencies.* David's committee is the largest, and its job is to review virtually every technical proposal made by the government, including expansions of ongoing programs and changes in direction of current ones. David's committee, which consists of 11 working groups, totaling some 200 staff, reviews projects for their scientific and technical feasibility. As David said in a recent Washington speech, the projects range "all the way from advanced transportation systems to increased protection from national disasters and improved air quality. . . . I would be less than frank if I did not say that some of the ideas and proposals are warmed-over rejects. They range all the way from outright nonsense and pet projects with little or no contribution to make, to first-class new ideas which are very likely to provide entirely new thrusts and directions." Once the sheep are separated from the technological goats, the proposals will be given financial and other reviews by additional working groups.

Beyond David's realm, the rest of the technological initiatives involve economic and political means of improving the nation's international technological position. The Council of Economic Advisors has a working group headed by its newest member Ezra Solomon, formerly of Stanford. The group is charged with finding resources to finance the technological projects. One method under study is the use of tax incentives to encourage the private sector to invest more heavily in R&D. Large government outlays are another possibility.

A third group is based in the Treasury Department under Assistant Secretary John Petty. It is dealing with technology transfer, or licensing and patent procedures through which tech-

* Represented are: the departments of Defense, Health, Education, and Welfare, Commerce, Agriculture, Transportation, Justice, State, Treasury, as well as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Atomic Energy Commission, National Science Foundation, Office of Economic Opportunity, Smithsonian Institution, Environmental Protection Agency, and Office of Management and Budget.

Germ War Lab Salvaged

The Army's biological warfare research center at Fort Detrick in Maryland, whose ultimate fate has hung in the balance for almost 2 years, will play a part in the nation's anticancer crusade, President Nixon has announced.

Nixon visited the complex Monday to proclaim that henceforth Detrick will be the locus of a program of basic research on cancer viruses to be administered by the National Cancer Institute under contract with a private company. The first-year budget is estimated at $6 million, which will come out of the $100 million for cancer that the President requested early this year. At full capacity, the program will require $15 to $20 million a year and employ 600 scientific workers, including visiting scientists from other countries as well as NIH workers and the contractor's employes.

The success of efforts to involve Fort Detrick in civilian biomedical research is in large part the result of strenuous behind-the-scene maneuvering by Maryland's two Republican senators, Charles McC. Mathias and J. Glenn Beall. "Everything that could possibly be done was done," said a Mathias aide. "No stone was left unturned, no arm untwisted." The senators devoted long hours to haranguing the Army, HEW, budget officials, and presidential advisers, and worked closely with the Committee of Concerned Scientists, a Detrick group that labored—until most of them were laid off—at keeping the scientific team there intact.

Detrick first seemed fated for mothballs when Nixon announced in 1969 a total ban on biological warfare research. No federal agency, including HEW, wanted to take on the responsibilities of being landlord for the elaborate complex that costs $15 million a year to maintain at full capacity.

However, the Army's decision to hold on to the fort and keep its modified "biodefensive" research program there solved the problem of proprietorship. Getting the Army to share its facility with a civilian tenant was another major problem, says the Mathias aide. But the Department of Agriculture set an important precedent last spring when it obtained permission to start a small program to study plant diseases at Detrick.

Nonetheless, in view of the obstacles posed by bureaucratic inertia and the current tight-budget atmosphere, it is highly unlikely that Detrick's new assignment would have come about were it not for the glamor and urgency that has lately surrounded the subject of cancer research. The new program will only use a fraction of Detrick's abundant facilities and is considerably more modest than another scheme proposed by HEW Secretary Elliot Richardson, which would have involved several of the institutes within the National Institutes of Health to the tune of $20.1 million the first year of operation.

The fort has an unparalleled assortment of facilities for doing virus research, including containment facilities for handling dangerous materials, pilot plants for production of biological and chemical materials, and extensive animal facilities (*Science*, 22 January). One of the main arguing points for converting Detrick has been that both staff and equipment could be reoriented almost overnight to do cancer research. But the plan came too late to retain the scientific team—over the 2-year period the staff has withered from 2000 scientific workers to 250.

—CONSTANCE HOLDEN