nologies developed in one country escape to another.

In the White House, Peter Peterson, assistant to the President for international economic affairs, is directing studies of foreign trade and U.S. international competitiveness. Another White House group, including lawyers from the Justice Department, is reviewing technical proposals from antitrust, patent, and state code viewpoints.

An OMB official involved in the study explained that there are four issues which concern the Administration: productivity, balance of trade, unemployment, and the use of technology to solve civilian problems. For all four, the Administration needs to know both the federal and the nonfederal funding options, and Magruder's job is to orchestrate the study and the presentation of the complex package that results.

Magruder himself is confident that the result will alter the nation's research and development priorities. Since he happens to be the man now in charge of this effort, his own unique views of research and development may indicate which way the winds of change will blow.

"Look at the anti-technology feeling in the country now. After the defeat of the SST, a distinguished senator got up on the floor of the Senate and said how great it was that 'we've turned our back on technology.' That feeling is an unfortunate symptom. And the cure for that feeling is to show them evidence that things are better as a result of technology."

Magruder clearly wants business and industry to have some say in achieving whatever changes are made. "When I came on board here, I didn't see any input from private industry. So I sent out letters to hundreds of trade organizations, which in turn sent them on to hundreds of companies. The results are now pouring in. We think we made half a million contacts. I also set up groups of blue-ribbon advisory committees to look at the work we're doing. They included the first secretary of transportation, airline presidents, industrial leaders, people from universities, and conservation groups."

On the future of basic research, Magruder says: "I prefer the term exploratory research—that's more acceptable. That's the wellspring from which all things come," says the ex-engineer. "You don't tamper with that."

Magruder blames inflation for the recent decline in funds for basic research. "Now let's start it up again," he says, "but let's do it with a program manager instead of just funding it in any old way the way we did before. Let's do it in a controlled way."

Magruder sounds confident that he can devise a program of technology initiatives which will rescue American industry—including the aerospace business—from its economic ills, and, at the same time, boost basic research that is somehow "program managed." The SST lost, he says, with some emotion, but the technology initiatives program won't lose. "This time we must not lose. This one is different."

—DEBORAH SHAPLEY

Cancer Legislation: Pro-NIH Bill Advances in House

Backers of a bill to prevent the National Institutes of Health from losing authority over cancer research have won an important and possibly decisive move in the legislative contest now being played out on Capitol Hill. Despite heavy pressure from the White House and lobbyists for an independent cancer agency, the ten-man House Subcommittee on Public Health and the Environment last week reported out a bill that would keep cancer research under the control of the NIH.

The subcommittee's action, if approved by the full committee (Interstate and Foreign Commerce) and by the House, sets the stage for direct conflict with a Senate version that legislates for an independent cancer agency. The Senate bill, which was passed by a 79 to 1 vote in July, is backed by a tripartite alliance of the Administration, chairman of the Senate health subcommittee Edward M. Kennedy (D–Mass.), and New York philanthropist Mary Lasker, the begetter of the proposal (*Science*, 8 October, p. 127).

In the House, opposition to this imposing alliance seemed slight until last month, when Representative Paul G. Rogers (D–Fla.), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Public Health and the Environment, introduced a rival bill designed to streamline the administration of cancer research, but within the framework of the NIH. After taking evidence from 51 witnesses over 4 weeks of hearings, the subcommittee has unanimously approved a version of the Rogers bill that makes surprisingly few concessions to its opponents.

The major change from the Rogers bill as first introduced is the provision for a three-man panel to report to the President on the state of cancer research. The provision was suggested by the ranking minority member of the subcommittee, Ancher Nelsen (R–Minn.) and was assented to by James Cavanaugh, a White House staff aide who sat in on the subcommittee's two meetings last week to mark up the bill.

At a press conference held to announce the subcommittee's decision, Rogers stressed the unanimity of the vote despite the "considerable pressures" that had been exerted on individual members, particularly Representative James F. Hastings (R–N.Y.), whose support of the bill Rogers called a "Profile in Courage."

Until last week, the backers of an independent cancer agency had expected to erode the 6 to 4 majority of the subcommittee who had cosponsored the Rogers bill, and to force Rogers to abandon his bill for the Senate version. But lobbyists for the Administration and Lasker forces seem to have underestimated Rogers's sway over his subcommittee. Despite all contrary pressures during the last month, members went into mark-up session 8 to 2 in favor of the Rogers bill.

These pressures included a series of full-page advertisements which, following Rogers's failure to concede on crucial points, appeared in 24 newspapers, including those of the 10 congressional districts of the subcommittee members. The advertisements, in the form of a letter from H. Marvin Pollard, presi-

dent of the American Cancer Society, stated that the Senate bill "was conceived by eminent research scientists who have been fighting cancer all their lives," and that the objections to the bill "have come mainly from people who do not have expert cancer knowledge."

Other literature put out by backers of an independent agency has been even less charitable to the persons of its opponents. An anonymous pamphlet circulating on Capitol Hill early this month warned that the Senate bill "may be defeated or crippled by a handful of obstinate men in strategic positions." A statement prepared by the Citizens Committee for the Conquest of Cancer called the Rogers bill a "further attempt to allay the unreasoning fears of the scientific community," whereas critics of the Senate bill "come almost entirely from the existing medical Establishment. They are, for the most part, the ones who are the beneficiaries of NIH grants."

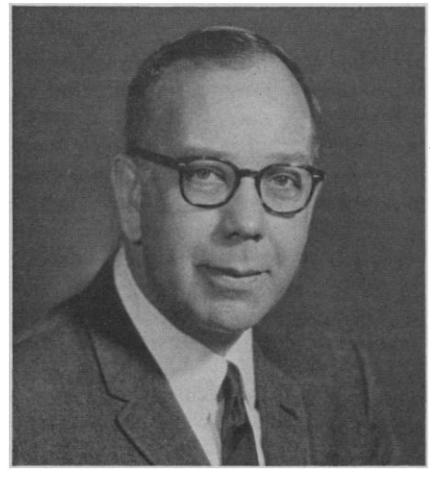
The bill approved by the Rogers subcommittee will be considered in the full House commerce committee, among which the lobbyists for the Senate bill have already been busy. But Rogers said last week he expected "little or no opposition in the full committee," in view of the unanimous vote taken in the subcommittee. If his subcommittee's bill is approved by the full committee and the House, Rogers's plans for the National Cancer Institute will almost certainly prevail over Kennedy's since the House-Senate conference deadlock will preserve that status quo, meaning that Rogers will win if he does not lose, and Kennedy lose if he does not win.

—NICHOLAS WADE

Urbane, low-keyed, easy wearer of a Palm Beach suntan, Representative Paul G. Rogers does not outwardly resemble a man girt for battle with the combined forces of President Nixon, Senator Edward Kennedy, and philanthropist Mary Lasker. But in the 9 months since he became chairman of the House Subcommittee on Public Health and the Environment, Rogers has not hesitated to take salient positions which, as often as not, conflict with those adopted by Kennedy and the Senate health subcommittee. In addition to the natural rivalry between House and Senate, Rogers and Kennedy have both acceded recently to the chairmanship of their respective committees, and both aspire to being known as Mr. Health in Congress, a sobriquet that no one has been able to claim since the retirement of Senator Lister Hill in 1968.

Rogers, 49, himself the son of a congressman, is serving his ninth 2-year term in the House. Although these are early days yet to have built up a legislative record, he has at least undertaken numerous hearings and acquired a reputation for doing his homework. Last month, when Kennedy took his subcommittee to Europe to study foreign health programs, Rogers and his men were out in the Far East garnering material on drug abuse. Apart from the cancer bill, the most direct confrontation between Rogers and Kennedy has been over the issue of health manpower. Rival bills were prepared by the Rogers and Kennedy subcommittees and passed by House and Senate, respectively. The differences between the bills were resolved only last week, after more than six meetings between House and Senate conferees since mid-July. "Rogers has certainly done himself proud in these conferences," says a staff member of the Senate committee. "He and Kennedy are strong-willed men, and it's a sight to behold the two of them going at it together."

On the issue of cancer research, Rogers made his position known as early as February this year. "'Let us not waste precious dollars in establishing another agency with its attendant overhead costs," he told the House in a speech made to endorse the position, then maintained by the White House, that the cancer effort should be kept within the NIH. Rogers's views on cancer administration were influenced by his experience in heading up a 2-year congressional study, completed in 1966, of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. This experience, he told *Science*, enabled him to "appreciate the danger of the Kennedy bill." But lobbyists for the Lasker cause believed at that time, and until recently, that Rogers would be persuaded round to their point of view.



Paul G. Rogers

Sources close to Rogers stress his ability to handle divisive issues without making enemies—"He has a persuasive quality that does not bruise," says an aide. Certainly Rogers is quick to play down suggestions that his cancer bill may represent a defeat for Kennedy; Kennedy, he notes, only inherited the idea of an independent cancer agency from the previous chairman of the Senate health subcommittee.

Nevertheless, Rogers takes every opportunity to compare the extensive hearings held by his subcommittee on the cancer legislation with the 3 days held by Kennedy's subcommittee. "We held 4 weeks of hearings and got all of the views, in contrast to trying to draw up a program quickly," he said last week. (In fact, House committees tend to hold more extensive hearings because members held fewer committee assignments than do senators.)

Rogers respects the achievements of Mary Lasker and her group in having already extracted an extra $100 million for cancer from the Administration, but the Administration's present position on the cancer issue is, he believes, absurd. "Someone in HEW or the White House panicked—instead of coming to the House and talking it over with people knowledgeable in the health field, they went to a quick compromise in the Senate." The White House tacticians, like the Laskerites, presumably doubted that Rogers could make good the stand he announced in February. Left as the sole standard-bearer in the House for a cause favored by the bulk of the biomedical community, Rogers stands to gain credit for whatever changes he may procure in the Senate-backed bill.—N.W.