

in thinking the questionnaire was bad," says Nadel, "and I also think it hurt the project a lot by creating hostility among congressmen." A draft of the questionnaire was shown to Donald Matthews, a congressional scholar at the Brookings Institution, but his advice that it be changed was not followed. "I don't expect they are going to get responses that will be usable," Matthews says. "Also I get no sense at all that they knew what they were going to do with the data. Clearly the questionnaire was a fishing expedition."

According to Fellmeth, director of the Congress project, the design and purpose of the questionnaire have been misunderstood. Several congressional experts were shown a draft, and although Matthews was one who suggested changes, other scholars approved it. The questionnaire was not intended to produce a high enough response rate to be amenable to statistical analysis, but rather to provide an opportunity for members to express their views on matters that concerned them. Fellmeth says the questionnaire would be fruitful even if answered by only 10 per cent. (So far "between a third and a half" of the members have returned their questionnaires.)

Another congressional scholar who has seen (but was not consulted on) the questionnaire, Nelson W. Polsby of the University of California at Berkeley, remarks that there seems to be a simple rationale behind the 633 questions; "that if you knew where a congressman's money was coming from you knew virtually all you needed to know about his behavior." This theory may have some validity, but is not the entire picture, Polsby opines.

Another part of the project opposed by at least some of its academic members was the publication of *Who Runs Congress?*, which they feared would follow the form of a sensationalist exposé and be taken or represented as a summary of the project's entire output. "The political scientists on the project were not consulted about the publication of the book, and there's a danger it will confirm the academic community's worst expectations of the project," says David E. Price, a political scientist at Yale who headed the commerce committee study. The source matter of *Who Runs Congress?* was apparently drawn mainly from the public record and from the profiles, and less or not at all from the committee or topics material. The book's preface describes the other project publications

as "later elaborations," but makes no claim to summarize or be based on them. Fellmeth says he, no more than the academics, wishes the book to preempt the committee and topics studies and he is confident that this will not happen.

A third criticism made by the academic insiders is that the project should have placed more emphasis on the topics and committee studies and less on the profiles. The former, it is argued, are more important for understanding Congress than are the foibles of individual congressmen. According to Price, preparation of the profiles consumed much of the project leadership's time, while rather little attention was given to coordinating the committee studies or formulating a uniform approach. Fellmeth believes the studies received appropriate resources but the profiles may have seemed to have had greater priority because of their earlier publication date.

Despite reservations about other parts of the project, political scientists involved in it seem generally satisfied that their own pieces of the action will be academically respectable studies. According to Salamon, the main difference between his committee study and academic research is that the study "is explicitly concerned with the link between process and outcome whereas political scientists tend to focus on the process alone." Price says his committee study is more case-oriented but otherwise differs little in approach from an academic study. According to Nadel, the main difference is in the question of assessing influence, a "thorny question which political scientists try to dodge" but which will be addressed in his committee study.

Among political scientists outside the Congress project apprehensions range from doubts as to the wisdom of trying to change Congress before properly understanding it, to narrower concerns that the project will antagonize congressmen and close doors to all students of Congress. John F. Bibby, a congressional scholar at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, fears that the project has a preordained purpose, to force change on Congress, and that the data will be made to fit. But some of the reforms Nader seems to have in mind may produce the reverse of the effect intended. Bibby comments that "many of the present critics of Congress were those who 10 years ago didn't want Congress to be involved in foreign policy because they thought all

good things flowed from the White House."

Matthews, of the Brookings Institution, expects that the committee studies will come reasonably close to meeting academic standards but that other parts of the project may fall short. "It is pretty clear what the leadership of the project wants. It may be beside the point to criticize them for not doing an academic study. As far as they're concerned the point may be not to understand the world but to change it—though they had better not attribute that quote."

Fellmeth, however, is confident that the methodology of the project will satisfy academic standards and that political scientists—"except those with a problem of territorial imperative"—will like the results when they see them. As examples of the project's robustness, he cites the design of the field surveys, the data analysis and support services, the screening of researchers for political bias, and the system for having material reviewed by experts and, in the case of the profiles, by the congressmen themselves. "There is more academic rigor in what we are doing than in any academic research I know of," Fellmeth says.

From an academic standpoint, the most unorthodox aspects of the project are its speed of execution and the use of inexperienced researchers. Far from being severe handicaps, these features seem to have been in some ways an advantage. Even if parts of the project do fall below academic standards, the results of Nader's huge undertaking seem certain to influence the future study of Congress, if not Congress itself.—NICHOLAS WADE

## APPOINTMENTS

**James H. Gillespie**, professor of veterinary bacteriology, New York State Veterinary College, Cornell University, to chairman, veterinary microbiology department at the college. . . . **James H. Copp**, chief, human resources branch, economic research service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, to head, sociology and anthropology department, Texas A & M University. . . . **Irving Shulman**, head, pediatrics department, University of Illinois College of Medicine, to head, pediatrics department, Stanford University School of Medicine. . . . **Raymond E. Untrauer**, professor of civil engineering, Iowa State University, to chairman,

(Continued on page 204)

## NEW AND PRACTICAL TITLES

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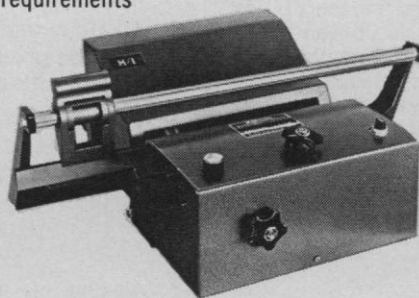
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## NEWS AND COMMENT

(Continued from page 146)

civil engineering department, Pennsylvania State University. . . . **Charles D. King**, assistant professor of sociology, Texas Tech University, to chairman, sociology and social work department, Indiana State University. . . . **Edwin B. Kurtz**, chairman, biology department, Kansas State Teachers College, to head, life science department, University of Texas of the Permian Basin. . . . **George F. Cahill, Jr.**, professor of medicine, Harvard University, to chairman, medicine department, University of Connecticut. . . . **Philip E. Greenman**, osteopathic physician, New York, to chairman, bio-mechanics department, Michigan State University. . . . **Francis A. Wood**, professor of plant pathology, Pennsylvania State University, to chairman, plant pathology department, University of Minnesota. . . . **Harvey White**, head, radiology department, Children's Memorial Hospital, also to chairman, radiology department, Northwestern University Medical School. . . . **William T. Fitts, Jr.**, professor of surgery, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, to chairman, surgery department at the school. . . . **John M. McKenna**, professor of microbiology, University of Missouri, to chairman, microbiology department, Texas Tech University. . . . **Anthony P. Simonelli**, associate professor of pharmacy, University of Michigan, to chairman, pharmaceuticals department, University of Connecticut. . . . **John S. Harris**, professor of administrative and public management, University of Wisconsin, Madison, to dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana State University. . . . **Richard S. Mayer**, professor of chemical engineering, Ohio University, to dean, College of Engineering and Technology at the university. . . . **Robert L. Leopold**, acting chairman, community medicine department, University of Pennsylvania, appointed chairman. . . . **Herbert Pardes**, assistant professor of psychiatry, Downstate Medical Center, State University of New York, to chairman, psychiatry department at the center. . . . **Frederick G. Adams**, presidential assistant for allied health research, University of Connecticut, to dean, School of Allied Health Professions at the university.

**Erratum:** In "Atmospheric carbon dioxides: Its role in maintaining phytoplankton standing crops" by D. W. Schindler *et al.* (29 September, page 1192), line 17, paragraph 2, column 3, page 1193, should read "yield an invasion of carbon of 0.07" instead of "yield . . . 0.04."

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