

released. . . ." One can just see it, all three volumes.

Speaking of the cancer plan, the secretary took the occasion to speak about cancer research in general and

clearly stated he does not think it unwise to spend as much money as the country is on cancer to the exclusion of research in other fields. From intensified cancer research, he said, "there

is an enormous fallout," that will be of benefit to other fields.

Although Weinberger made no specific reference to the national heart plan in his prepared remarks, the sub-

Briefing

Medical School Teachers Will Learn about Politics

The Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences is starting a congressional health fellowship program which will be closely modeled on that of the American Political Science Association (APSA).

The fellows are to be mid-career professionals—medical school faculty members, most of whom will be in their 30's. They will be posted with various House and Senate committees whose work is related to health policy, where they will perform the usual committee chores.

The purpose of this exercise, says Richard Seggel of the program's staff, is to "let them know what the real world—the real political and governmental world—is like," and "why things are moving the way they are." Says Seggel, "You go out there and talk with them and most are very upset about the way things are happening here [in Washington]."

The object of the fellowships is simply to get more people with political savvy into positions of influence in medical centers and schools. It will also enlarge the pool of politically sophisticated health professionals who can be tapped for administrative positions in government.

Salaries for the fellows will be paid from a 3-year grant of \$710,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Ivan L. Bennett of New York University Medical Center has been appointed head of the fellowship program's policy board, which includes representatives from the foundation, the institute, and APSA. (Robert Marston, former director of NIH, will run the program itself.) Bennett says the program was established partially in response to the many requests about how to gain firsthand knowledge if one

wants to obtain a health-related position in the federal government.

Each of 115 medical centers and free-standing medical schools in the United States has been asked to recommend one applicant. The board will then choose six. The winners will spend 6 or 8 weeks in orientation sessions and will then be incorporated into the APSA program.

Seggel points out that the new program is appropriate now that medical schools and centers are becoming increasingly involved in community affairs, with all the political entanglements that can include. The fellowship program is also undoubtedly a sound defensive move to stave off further cuts in federal health grants, as it will arm health professionals with the knowledge of how and why top-level policy is made.—C. H.

New Leadership Proposed for Fort Detrick

When the order was given to convert the biological warfare laboratories at Fort Detrick in Frederick, Maryland, to a cancer research center, the natural solution was to fill Detrick with the extensions of programs already in progress at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). As a result the Frederick center now conducts a hotchpotch of projects on behalf of various NCI program officials.

A plan to give the center a new identity has been mooted by Sidney Weinhouse of the Fels Research Institute in Philadelphia. As chairman of an ad hoc committee to the advisory board of the NCI, Weinhouse has proposed that a research scientist of outstanding caliber be appointed overall director of Frederick. Only thus can the place be metamorphosed from a "geographic entity" where the overflow of NCI programs are accommodated to a

world-renowned center of pioneering cancer research.

In addition to the service-oriented programs at Frederick, now amounting to \$9.5 million, the new director should have control over a research program of his own, worth about \$2.5 million, the Weinhouse committee suggests in an interim report to the NCI advisory board. With a rank equivalent to that of the NCI division heads, the director should be free to develop ties with universities and create an environment at Frederick conducive to research.

Weinhouse pays tribute to the "speed and apparent efficiency" with which the Frederick contractor, Litton Bionetics, has carried out the conversion to cancer research. But the work now being carried on there is a "conglomeration of fragmentation . . . with no unifying overview," and suffers from a "crucial lack" of scientific leadership. The committee is also concerned whether the projects now under way are scrutinized carefully enough, whether their goals are worthwhile, and whether they are necessary or duplicate work elsewhere. (Weinhouse says that these are general concerns that do not refer to any particular project at Frederick.)

Appointment of a scientific director would cut into the preserves of the NCI officials who have programs at Frederick and might be expected, for this reason, to be unpopular. But Weinhouse says that senior members of the NCI and the NCI's advisory board are favorable to the idea. He has no candidates in sight for the directorship, though says that various names have been bandied about. According to others, these names include NCI researchers George Todaro and Robert Gallo, and I. Bernard Weinstein of Columbia University. NCI spokesman Frank Karel says that no definite action is likely to be taken until the Weinhouse committee completes a final and more detailed proposal.

—N.W.