

welfare recipients were told they would be cut off unless they agreed to be sterilized. The four black women representatives in Congress sent a letter last summer to HEW Secretary Caspar Weinberger asking for clarification of federal policy on sterilizations. The proposals "raise serious questions about the government's ability to prevent involuntary sterilization of poor people and minorities," the letter said. The ACLU has suggested that, to avert "institutional pressures" on welfare recipients, each patient to be sterilized be assigned an "advocate," much in the way legal services programs provide free legal counsel for the poor. But HEW specifically rejected this approach in announcing the regulations.

With civil libertarians dissatisfied with the regulations and HEW firmly behind them, the controversy seems headed for resolution in the courts. Lower court decisions have given both sides some encouragement. In Montgomery, Alabama, recently, a federal judge issued a stringent set of guidelines that must be followed before the mentally retarded in state institutions can be sterilized; these guidelines parallel the new regulations. On the other hand, there is the landmark Michigan decision, which held that an involuntarily detained mental patient is not capable of giving voluntary consent to psychosurgery and that the consent of his parents and approval of the project's review committee are not sufficient. In the Relf case and the Cox cases, ACLU lawyers are making a series of constitutional arguments that they hope will lead the Supreme Court to strike down many of the states' eugenics statutes and the new HEW guidelines.

There is probably no mechanism that can completely protect each and every patient from an overzealous or venal public official or doctor. Even the critics agree with HEW on that. But in this situation, the civil libertarians prefer to err on the side of overprotection, while HEW appears most worried about limits on patients' access to sterilization. Until a Supreme Court decision (and perhaps after), the fact is, as Kennedy put it at his hearings last summer, "Time after time we have seen that the patient's only remedy is malpractice litigation—after the fact."—JUDITH COBURN

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## APPOINTMENTS

**Robert W. Hiatt**, former vice president for academic affairs, University of Hawaii, to president, University of Alaska. . . . **Paul F. Romberg**, president, California State College, Bakersfield, to president, California State University, San Francisco. . . . **P. Roy Vagelos**, chairman, biological chemistry department, Medical School, Washington University, to director, new division of biology and biomedical sciences at the university. . . . **Alfred A. Cave**, dean, College of Humanities, University of Utah, to dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Toledo. . . . **Tom Sills**, chairman, education department, West Georgia College, to dean, School of Education at the college. . . . **Joseph P. Buckley**, associate dean, School of Pharmacy, University of Pittsburgh, to dean, College of Pharmacy, University of Houston. . . . **Edward L. Hogan**, associate professor of medicine, University of North Carolina, to chairman, neurology department, Medical University of South Carolina. . . . **Samuel F. Hulbert**, associate dean, College of Engineering, Clemson University, to dean, School of Engineering, Tulane University. . . . **John D. Broome**, professor of pathology, New York University School of Medicine, to chairman, pathology department, Downstate Medical Center, State University of New York. . . . **Jules V. Hallum**, associate professor of microbiology and immunology, Tulane University, to chairman, microbiology department, University of Oregon Medical School. . . . **Benjamin Bederson**, professor of physics, New York University, to chairman, physics department at the university. . . . **John Buettner-Janusch**, professor of anatomy, zoology, and anthropology, Duke University, to chairman, anthropology department, New York University. . . . **William C. Langworthy**, associate dean, School of Letters, Arts and Sciences, California State University, Fullerton, to chairman, chemistry department, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. . . . **Gene Budig**, vice president, Illinois State University, to president of the university. . . . **Trevor Colburn**, dean, Graduate School, University of New Hampshire, to vice president for academic affairs, California State University, San Diego.

## RECENT DEATHS

**Carl C. Eckart**, 71; former director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography; 23 October.

**Marvin J. Feldman**, 51; professor of psychology; State University of New York, Buffalo; 29 September.

**Harvey A. Feyerherm**, 54; former chairman, physiology department, Northern Illinois University; 24 September.

**Frank R. Gutting**, 64; associate professor of mathematics, St. Mary's University; 17 October.

**Ruth F. Hill**, 56; professor of biology, York University, Toronto; 3 November.

**Harold W. Iversen**, 60; professor of mechanical engineering, College of Engineering, University of California, Berkeley; 12 November.

**Robert F. Loeb**, 78; professor emeritus of medicine, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; 21 October.

**John T. Metcalf**, 83; professor emeritus of psychology, University of Vermont; 14 February.

**Duncan E. Reid**, 67; professor emeritus of obstetrics and gynecology, Harvard University; 7 November.

**Hortense Rickard**, 87; professor emeritus of mathematics, Ohio State University; 10 October.

**Alfred S. Romer**, 78; former director, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, and former president, AAAS; 5 November.

**W. J. Merle Scott**, 79; professor emeritus of surgery, School of Medicine, University of Rochester; 25 October.

**Eugene Van Cleef**, 86; professor emeritus of geography and foreign trade, Ohio State University; 7 November.

**Artturi Virtanen**, 78; former professor of biochemistry, University of Helsinki, 11 November.

**William J. Walbesser**, 45; professor of electrical engineering, State University of New York, Buffalo; 22 October.

**Paul D. White**, 87; former clinical professor of medicine, Harvard University; 31 October.

**Jacob Yerushalmy**, 69; professor emeritus of biostatistics, University of California, Berkeley; 15 October.

**Jesse Zizmor**, 65; assistant attending psychologist, New York University Post Graduate Hospital and Bellevue Center; 29 October.