

range of 500,000 (the original estimate) to 2 million (the independent panel's upper estimate). Meselson still says the estimate is too low and plans his own study, pointing out that this is a scientific question, after all, on which everyone ought to be able eventually to agree. In the final document, a tropical forest expert on the committee, Paul Richards, and Hô wrote separate letters dissociating themselves from the inland forest chapter and saying they thought the estimate was too low. Whatever larger lesson—if any—there is in this tale of the inland forests, at least it is clear that a batch of scientists analyzing a batch of facts are capable of high emotion. As one Seattle forester told *Science*: "Just because I was a dove on the Vietnam war doesn't mean I am going to invent dead trees to solve my emotional problems."

Although this dispute colors all accounts of the rest of the committee's work, its other activities generated controversy, too, and affected the final report in significant ways. For example, after several noted anthropologists refused to work for the committee because of its DOD funding (the American Anthropological Association having recently been the arena for a fight over military funding of anthropologists in Thailand). Lang succeeded in getting DOD to change the terms of the contract to protect privacy of information and the identity of "all respondents" in the study. At least one anthropologist who joined the committee, Peter Kunstadter of the University of Washington, did so only after nonmilitary funds were found to support him.

The work on medical effects of herbicides is also important since much of the public outrage about herbicides in Vietnam, and DOD's halt of most herbicide spraying there in 1971, followed reports of an unusual number of birth defects and stillbirths in hospitals in provinces that had been heavily sprayed. Because of heavy ground fighting the committee could not get into Tay Ninh province, where these reports originated, and the group decided not to make its own epidemiological survey elsewhere. A member of the review panel, who asked not to be named, explained that the original chapter on biological effects implied that since the committee hadn't found definitive human health effects, they didn't exist. The reviewers, he said, are in part responsible for changing the report's emphasis in this regard. In fact, it recommends that

the reports of Montagnard children's deaths, of dioxin in the Vietnamese food chain, and of human effects of dioxin be followed up.

It should be noted in conclusion that the report itself reflects the troubled process which produced it. Handler says the report is a better product for having undergone the "difficult" and "sometimes regrettable" process of review; it is the best single document today, he says, of what is known about herbicide effects. Meselson reflected the comments of some others when, in a statement, he termed it "quite informative" with the exception of the inland forest timber estimate and the lack of new data on stillbirths and birth defects. Other evaluations reflected that of another review panel member, "It is all made of loose ends and it says so itself." Thus having been handed a potential political time bomb in the form of the herbicide assignment, the academy exploded alright—but not over the sorts of issues one might have expected. Perhaps someday, after the Vietnam war has receded still further in the public memory, and the issue of herbicide effects has lost the fascination of being topical, these questions will be answered.

—DEBORAH SHAPLEY

APPOINTMENTS

Frank L. Hereford, Jr., professor of physics, University of Virginia, to president of the university. . . . **Paul Meier**, professor of statistics and theoretical biology, University of Chicago, to chairman, statistics department at the university. . . . **David J. Cox**, associate professor of chemistry, University of Texas, Austin, to chairman, biochemistry department, Kansas State University, Manhattan. . . . **Victor Gilinsky**, formerly assistant director for policy and program review, Atomic Energy Commission, to head, physical sciences department, Rand Corporation. . . . **Harry C. Davies**, acting dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Adelphi University, appointed dean of the college. . . . **Gene E. Martin**, professor of geography, University of Oregon, to dean, School of Behavioral and Social Sciences, California State University, Chico. . . . **Eugene H. Kopp**, dean, School of Engineering, California State University, Los Angeles, to vice president for academic affairs,

West Coast University. . . . **Jonathan C. Messerli**, dean, School of Education, Hofstra University, to dean, School of Education, Fordham University. . . . **Benjamin Rosner**, university dean of teacher education, City University of New York, to dean, College of Education, Temple University. . . . **Helen M. Ranney**, professor of medicine, State University of New York, Buffalo, to chairman, medicine department, University of California, San Diego. . . . **Helen P. Gouldner**, professor of sociology, Washington University, to chairman, sociology department, University of Delaware. . . . **Warren J. Baker**, professor of civil engineering, University of Detroit, to dean, College of Engineering at the university. . . . **Donald E. Rathbone**, chairman, electrical engineering department, University of Idaho, to dean, College of Engineering, Kansas State University. . . . **Robert A. Corrigan**, associate professor of English, University of Iowa, to dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Missouri-Rolla. . . . **Gerald R. Stairs**, chairman, forestry department, University of Wisconsin, to dean, College of Agriculture, University of Arizona. . . . **Leslie S. Jacobson**, professor of biology, Long Island University, to dean, Graduate School at the university. . . . **Louis A. Luzzi**, professor of pharmacy, University of Georgia, to dean, School of Pharmacy, West Virginia University. . . . **Fritz E. Dohse**, chairman, engineering sciences department, Louisiana State University, to dean, School of Engineering at the university. . . . **Neal A. Vanselow**, chairman, postgraduate medicine and health professions education, University of Michigan, to dean, College of Medicine, University of Arizona. . . . **Merl C. Hokenstad, Jr.**, director, School of Social Work, Western Michigan University, to dean, School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University. . . . **Ira M. Rosenthal**, director of pediatrics, Cook County Hospital, to head, pediatrics department, Abraham Lincoln School of Medicine, University of Illinois. . . . **Wallace Arthur**, professor of physics, Fairleigh Dickinson University, to dean, College of Science and Engineering at the university. . . . **Leonard L. Ross**, professor of anatomy, Cornell University Medical College, to chairman, anatomy department, Medical College of Pennsylvania. . . . **Patrick L. Parker**, former acting director, Marine Science Institute, University of Texas, to director of the institute.