

pledged itself to put \$35.6 million behind the development of a major convention center on the fringe of downtown Columbus. In addition, BMI staff members seem much more visible and active in community and charitable affairs than they were in the past.

Is it all a public relations ploy calculated to ingratiate BMI with community leaders because of the legal tremors? No doubt Battelle is on its best behavior these days, but too cynical an interpretation seems unwarranted. Sherwood L. Fawcett, who has been BMI president since 1968, was a strong protagonist of Battelle involvement in community and regional affairs when he was director of Battelle's Hanford operation, and he brought that attitude with him to Columbus. Furthermore, Battelle's work in health and education and urban problems generally in recent years has obviously affected organizational attitudes. A practical symbol of Battelle's commitment to the development of what might be called social technology is its partnership with OSU in sponsoring the Academy of Contemporary Problems, which will be described in a later article. A number of the academy's programs have a direct impact on the Columbus area and on Ohio.

It is difficult for the outsider to evaluate reports that Battelle's legal troubles are attributable to what one observer at OSU calls "a fight in the power structure." The theory is that some financial and political powers have been antagonized by Battelle's aloofness and independence and tantalized by BMI's resources.

Battelle's leaders decline to speculate on the motivations of BMI's critics, but an example of one line of deduction is reflected in the following observations of Columbus radio commentator Paul Hogan on the potential effect of awarding jurisdiction over Battelle to the probate court.

If Judge Metcalf did have such powers over Battelle (to approve the appointment of future Battelle trustees), he would, in turn, become an extremely powerful figure locally. If he had the authority to pass on Battelle Board of Trustee members, that could indirectly give him the power to, in many ways, direct the future of the multi-million, multi-national institution. And for the sake of argument only, put a dishonest person in charge of Probate Court—one who, for instance, was controlled by certain economic interests or political factions or any special interest group for that matter. It is readily apparent that the jurisdictional struggle over Battelle Memorial is of monumental significance.

BMI officials tend to concentrate on the argument that the probate code should not apply to BMI. Under probate law the trustees would be required to approve all significant policy decisions and perhaps to sign all checks; this would be infeasible for a multinational operation employing 6000. Battelle contends that BMI should be supervised by the attorney general in the same way that a corporation is, with BMI trustees operating in the manner of corporation directors.

As for the negotiations between Battelle and the attorney general's office, the unsettled issues reportedly center on the scope of Battelle operations and questions of contract research. The state's lawyers are said to have been looking hard at Battelle's far-flung operations in the perspective of the Battelle will. In addition, they have been investigating the criteria that Battelle uses to select its contract research projects.

In fact, the task of deciding how well BMI is fulfilling Gordon Battelle's hopes and expectations is a perplexing one. Forty years ago, after all, contract research was undeveloped and the non-profit research institution itself was in a rudimentary state. As for the charge that Battelle has diverted large sums of money which should have gone into the community—a charge which is certainly heard in Columbus—there actually seems to be no clear basis for it in the will.

Battelle has gone to some lengths to persuade the public of the economic importance of BMI to Columbus and to refute reports that the organization has a worth of \$500 million to \$1 billion, reports attributed to a radio broadcast by Metcalf.

Some observers feel that the current legal trouble would never have arisen if BMI had not been so successful financially. As one insider put it, "For 40 years we were poor as hell, then Xerox hit."

It is fair to say that some of Battelle's current difficulties are due to that fact that, in the past, it has appeared as concerned with a healthy balance sheet as with advanced technology and was not very communicative about its financial status. Recently BMI has been much more open about its assets and its operations, which seems fitting in the post-Watergate age of accountability.

Some partisans of BMI fear a goose-that-laid-the-golden-egg scenario for

Battelle. That is not impossible, of course, but there seem to be firm grounds to hope that a way may be found to reconcile the preservation of Battelle's problem-solving capacity with the public interest and Gordon Battelle's will.—JOHN WALSH

## APPOINTMENTS

**Stuart I. Brown**, clinical associate professor of ophthalmology, Cornell University, to chairman, ophthalmology department, University of Pittsburgh. . . . **Nathaniel F. Rodman**, professor of pathology, University of Iowa, to chairman, pathology department, West Virginia University. . . . **Charles V. Hall**, professor of horticulture, Kansas State University, to chairman, horticulture department, Iowa State University. . . . **John D. Palmer**, professor of biology, New York University, to chairman, zoology department, University of Massachusetts. . . . **John J. Fennessy**, professor of radiology, University of Chicago, to chairman, radiology department at the university. . . . **Robert W. Bernlohr**, professor of microbiology and biochemistry, University of Minnesota, to chairman, microbiology department, Pennsylvania State University. . . . **Bert E. Nordlie**, associate professor of geosciences, University of Arizona, to chairman, earth science department, Iowa State University. . . . **Roger Lester**, professor of medicine, Boston University, to chairman, gastroenterology department, School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh. . . . **Daniel B. Kimberg**, associate professor of medicine, Harvard University, to chairman, medicine department, University of Rochester. . . . **David Greenberg**, professor of chemical engineering, Louisiana State University, to chairman, chemical and nuclear engineering department, University of Cincinnati. . . . **John E. Adams**, professor of psychiatry, Stanford University School of Medicine, to chairman, psychiatry department, University of Florida College of Medicine. . . . **Richard S. Naylor**, professor of geology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to chairman, earth sciences department, Northeastern University. . . . **William T. Moss**, former professor of radiology, Northwestern University School of Medicine, to chairman, radiation therapy department, University of Oregon School of Medicine.

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