

quently change her mind? Chayet got the following sentence written into the bill. "In any criminal proceeding, the fetus shall be *conclusively presumed* [emphasis added] not to be the subject of a planned abortion if the mother signed a written statement that at the

time of the study she was not planning to have an abortion." Some investigators have criticized that portion of the bill, saying it invites deceit, but Chayet points out that it nevertheless protects the researcher.

A section of the bill defining a "live

fetus" as one with movement or heart or respiratory activity was amended, and more vague language about the "best medical judgment of a physician" was substituted.

The law requires the written consent of the mother before any experiment can be lawfully performed on a dead fetus. Keeping in mind the pending case of four Boston City Hospital investigators charged with grave robbing for moving bodies of dead fetuses without maternal consent (*Science*, 1 November), Chayet inserted a provision to protect scientists in the future. Written consent to allow researchers to use a dead fetus also constitutes consent for its "transfer" from one hospital or laboratory to another.

These compromises were agreed to relatively easily, but the language of paragraph two of the bill, a single sentence, turned out to be harder to negotiate. The sentence has to do with diagnostic and remedial procedures, including amniocentesis. By telephone over the weekend, Smith and Chayet drafted a paragraph that said, "This section shall not prohibit or *relate to* [emphasis added] diagnostic or remedial procedures the purpose of which is to determine the life or health of the fetus involved or to preserve the life or health of the fetus involved or the mother involved."

At the beginning of the week, everyone went to the House Speaker's office to complete the negotiations and participate in a press conference announcing that differences had been resolved. But there was unanticipated trouble, Nathan remembers. "The negotiations had been conducted through a series of hysterical phone calls. No one had had time to reflect." Smith, who had not seen the final peace document in writing, said he would not buy "relate to" but wanted all of paragraph two deleted. "For a while," says Nathan, "I thought the whole deal was going to fall through. There we were with lots of reporters waiting in a room upstairs and suddenly we had no agreement. I was ready to cave in but Fred Frigoletto wouldn't let me. 'Don't give an inch,' he said."

Speaker Bartley, Nathan declares, then saved the day. "He calmly told everyone to take his time about working things out and said he would just tell the press to go home, which he did." So, the two sides went back to negotiating and each side gave a little. The scientists agreed to the substitution of "regulate" for "relate to," and Smith agreed to the rest of the para-

## Briefing

### Greetings from Holifield National Laboratory

The folks at Holifield National Laboratory wish everyone a happy new year, but they ask you not to jot down the name in your address book just yet. It may be but a short-lived phenomenon.

Who? Where? Well it's that big energy and biological research center down in the hills of Tennessee that used to go by the name of Oak Ridge National Laboratory or ORNL for short. As a little holiday surprise, some friends of Representative Chet Holifield (D-Calif.) thought it would be a nice idea to memorialize the retiring congressman for his more than 30 years of staunch and distinguished service on behalf of nuclear energy. And what better way than to append his name to an institution nurtured on the billions of dollars Mr. Holifield helped channel into nuclear research?

The idea of renaming ORNL apparently was cooked up by staffers on the House Government Operations Committee (of which Holifield was chairman as well as being a major power on the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy since the 1940's). A bill to enact the change slipped through the House and Senate on 18 and 19 December and, amid the rush to adjourn, aroused no objections. President Ford signed it a few days later and only then did the word get around Oak Ridge.

The result was a chain reaction of displeasure, from the Chamber of Commerce (Holifield, Tennessee?) to researchers and administrators at the laboratory. Everyone, it seems, deeply appreciates Holifield's efforts and thinks a memorial of some sort would be just fine. But the whole laboratory seemed a bit much. As the local *Oak Ridger* editorialized, "Rep. Holifield has long been a special friend of Oak

Ridge and Oak Ridge National Laboratory . . . [But] where does it begin, where does it end? With the nuclear scientific pioneers like Einstein, Fermi, Compton? With the military men who led the Manhattan Project? . . . This is the kind of bill that congressmen tend to introduce and vote 'yes' on willy-nilly. Who wants to insult a fellow congressman? And, who knows, the next laboratory they name may be your own."

Community leaders and laboratory administrators alike are concerned about a loss of identity, for the town as well as the laboratory. "I recognize the role Holifield's played," says Howard I. Adler, director of ORNL's biology division. "But the name ORNL has worldwide significance and recognition that can't be tossed aside lightly. We lose more than Holifield gains."

Now that the new name has been cast into law the Tennessee congressional delegation has started hearing from its constituents. An aide to Senator Howard Baker (R-Tenn.) says that office has received "literally hundreds" of protesting telegrams and letters. Baker is working with Representative John J. Duncan (R-Tenn.) to devise a pacifying compromise. Two possibilities are a hyphenated name (like Oak Ridge-Holifield National Laboratory) or dedicating ORNL's headquarters building to Holifield.

Laboratory officials, however, are miffed at not having been consulted before or since the name change.

Possibly they can take heart from the residents of Cape Canaveral (briefly Kennedy), who won their identity back in 1973. Or from Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which two years ago found itself rebaptized in honor of H. Allen Smith, not the humorist but the local congressman who, by coincidence, had periodically voted to cut the space budget. Before long Mr. Smith's name was attached to the administration building and JPL has been just plain JPL ever since.—R.G.