capitation support at present levels at least, says he can accept the idea of tying it to a requirement that schools establish a department of family medicine and he was willing to tie it to limits on residency programs as well, although the House refused to adopt the latter provision in its bill. Where Rogers diverges notably from the Administration and Kennedy thinking is in the matter of forcing all, or some, students to accept conditional scholarships.

Rogers strongly endorses the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) scholarship program and believes, if it were expanded, enough students would be interested in taking scholarships in exchange for a commitment to serve that the geographic maldistribution problem would be resolved. Considering the present cost of medical school tuition and the fact that it is going nowhere but up (some schools are talking

Briefing

Executive Branch Readies for New Science Setup

In anticipation of the new law creating an office of the science adviser in the White House, the National Science Foundation has demoted those offices it created in 1973 to serve its director, who at that time became the President's science adviser. As of 9 February, both the Science and Technology Policy Office and the Office of Energy Policy, which previously reported to the director, will be rolled, along with the Office of National R & D Assessment, into a subgroup reporting to one of NSF's assistant directors.

And, to get the work of the new offices started, the two interim advisory panels appointed by the President have been meeting and have drawn up a long list of possible projects. The idea, they say, is to get the work of the new office started.

The most original of these is a proposal for a "science court," which has the enthusiastic backing of Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, and will be run by a member of one of the committees who has been a long-term champion of the notion, Arthur Kantrowitz, of Avco-Everett Research Laboratories. The group hopes to find a federal agency willing to fund an experimental "trial" of the technological elements of some public controversy.

Another project will be an exercise in creative thinking on the question of how science and technology can have an impact on the world food situation, to be run by Hans Mark, director of the Ames Research Center. J. Herbert Holloman, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology will study technology and innovation. Arthur Bueche of General Electric Corp. will review the effects of federal regulation on the advance of science. The committees have also discussed holding a 2-day symposium to examine the funding and the health of basic research.—D.S.

Von Braun Seeks to Stir Up Sagging Space Interest

Wernher von Braun, master rocket builder for America's space program, has emerged from the low profile he maintained after quitting the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1972 and now, at the age of 64, is trying to get off the ground with his latest vehicle, the National Space Institute (NSI).

In two recent press conferences von Braun said that his outfit is different from existing space organizations, which spend all their time talking to themselves. The purposes of the NSI are twofold: one is to start a grass-roots movement to get the American public space-minded again. The other is to acquaint private industry with the benefits to be gained from utilizing government space-related research and development.

Von Braun feels that interest in space has lagged among a fickle public just at the point where the real returns for the investments of the 1960's should be rolling in. He likens the country to a farmer who has carefully sown and tended his orchard and who, now that the fruit is ripening, says he can't afford to hire pickers.

Von Braun believes all the earth's problems can be tackled with the aid of space technology—from new manufacturing activities made possible in zero gravity, to satellite communications and earth resources monitoring, to the construction of planetary colonies and orbiting habitats. "Space takes the lid off the pressure cooker called earth," says he.

The NSI has a small staff quartered in Arlington, Virginia, an estimated annual budget of $300,000, and a starry board of directors including broadcaster, author, and all-around enthusiast Hugh Downs, now cast as NSI vice president; Boy Scout executive Alden G. Barber; Fulton J. Sheen; Barry Goldwater; Jacques Cousteau; Shirley Temple Black; Issac Asimov; James Van Allen; and Bob Hope.—C.H.

Science Advice: Problems and Prospects

On 21 January, the Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences, the first of three committees that must do so, gave its approval to a bill restoring a presidential science adviser to the White House. The action indicated that the committee staffs, Senate Republicans, and the White House have agreed on a version of the measure that can sail smoothly through the Senate, be altered in conference with the House, and be signed by the President, probably in March. Previous Senate draft versions of the bill had aroused Administration opposition, and hence the ire of Senate Republicans, mainly because the future science adviser would be given too much power (*Science*, 16 January).

Besides the aeronautical committee, approval must be given by the Commerce Committee and the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, both of which are expected to act before the end of January. The new version somewhat lessens the power invested in the science adviser in previous versions of the Senate bill. For example, instead of being a full-fledged member of the National Security Council, he now would only advise the council at its request. A requirement that the President explain any budget disagreement between him and his science adviser—objected to strongly by the White House—has been modified. Other features to which the White House objects, such as a program to disseminate science and technology to state governments, remain.

The mood of staffers negotiating the legislation has mellowed in comparison to that of past weeks, when there was considerable friction over who was

about tuitions in the $10,000 to $12,500 range for next year), Rogers maintains, with a certain logic, that there are plenty of students who would voluntarily seek an NHSC scholarship, which covers tuition plus a stipend for living expenses, in exchange for service in rural or inner-city areas. An informal survey recently completed by one member of his staff showed that medical school deans estimate as many as 85 percent of students would gladly take the scholarship. Therefore, says Rogers, "I oppose mandatory service as proposed by Kennedy as unnecessary, of questionable constitutional validity and as unwarranted social policy."

Kennedy, now as before, is running into trouble in the Senate because the tone of his proposals suggests a direct intervention in the affairs of medical schools and medical practice that many people find hard to

trying to do what. "It's still a camel of a bill," commented one Senate staffer about the new version, "but I think that it is one we can get through the Senate."—D.S.

Goodbye Holifield, Hello Oak Ridge

Tennessee residents, civic groups, and scientists were dismayed in 1974 when Congress changed the name of their beloved Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which nestles in the mountains west of Knoxville. It was thereafter to be known as the Holifield National Laboratory, in honor of Chet Holifield, the Democratic congressman from California, who was then retiring after serving 30 years as a key figure on the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. But now, after a year of struggle, the Tennesseans have succeeded in changing the name of the institution back to its original form.

This welcome relief was provided through amendments introduced by the Tennessee delegation in both the House and Senate to the fiscal 1976 authorization bill for the Energy Research and Development Administration, the agency that supports Oak Ridge's principal activities. But the Tennessee delegation did not completely slight its former partner. An accelerator at Oak Ridge, now under construction, will be named the Holifield Heavy Ion Research Facility.

Staffers there say that for the last year the laboratory has led a schizophrenic existence. "It's remarkable how little the name of one congressman, even a very important congressman like Mr. Holifield, is known nationally," says one official, remarking on the ignorance which visiting high school students, tourists, and other members of the public have displayed about the significance of the Holifield name. And, since efforts were under way to change the name back, the laboratory's management decided that the place would be Holifield for purposes of official government business and Oak Ridge for purposes of scientific communication. Thus, technical journals, reports, and scientific papers have been emanating for the last year from a laboratory that, as far as Uncle Sam was concerned, didn't exist.—D.S.

Wise Men to Scratch Heads over Nuclear Issues

Not content with the number of nuclear energy studies already completed or under way around the country, the Ford Foundation has just announced it will spend $679,354 for a blue-ribbon academic group to make a 1-year study of civilian nuclear power issues. The aim, according to the foundation's announcement, will be to "highlight the critical issues" and to make recommendations, because the subject has, in the last year or so, become so acrimoniously debated and confused in the public mind.

The panel plans to operate as a free-wheeling think tank; members will read the literature, listen to outside experts, and shape their deliberations in any direction they see fit. Issues covered could include the economics of nuclear power, nuclear safety, waste disposal, and international controls. The odds seem good, however, that the international and arms control aspects of the issue will be studied thoroughly, since the panel includes several arms control experts including its chairman, Spurgeon Keeny, Jr., a former assistant director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Keeny is now with the Mitre Corporation, which will be the recipient of Ford's money and run the project.

The blue-ribbon panel is made up of a battery of university presidents, prominent academics, and arms control experts, who were chosen partly because they had not taken hard positions on nuclear power issues. Panel members themselves are expected to perform the study. As one foundation official said, "These wise people are in fact going to do the work; the only staff is a secretary."

By contrast, the wide-ranging Energy Policy Project, which the foundation supported at the time of the 1973 Arab oil embargo, was largely staff-run, with its board of directors playing only a nominal role. Still another major study, the $2 million look at technological choices and research strategies on nuclear energy just launched by the National Academy of Sciences, will operate through some 25 subpanels reporting to the main committee (*Science*, 5 December 1975).

Members of the foundation's new study group are Kenneth J. Arrow, Harvard University; Harold Brown, President, California Institute of Technology; Albert Carnesale, Harvard University; Abraham Chayes, Harvard Law School; Hollis B. Chenery, Vice President, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; Paul Doty, Harvard University; Phillip J. Farley, Brookings Institution; Richard L. Garwin, IBM Corporation; Marvin L. Goldberger, Princeton University; Carl Kaysen, Institute for Advanced Study; Hans H. Landsberg, Resources for the Future; Gordon J. F. MacDonald, Dartmouth College; Joseph S. Nye, Harvard University; Wolfgang K. H. Panofsky, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center; Howard Raiffa, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; George W. Rathjens, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; John C. Sawhill, President, New York University; and Thomas C. Schelling, Harvard University.

Besides this project, Ford has awarded $175,000 to Princeton's Center for Environmental Studies to study the international plutonium economy. An added $20,000 will go to Massachusetts Institute of Technology to support work on a global model of energy supply and demand.—D.S.