committee structure remains substantially as it was.

The committee has two energy R & D subcommittees. The panel which handled fossil fuels is now called the fossil and nuclear energy research, development, and demonstration subcommittee and is chaired by Representative Walter Flowers (D–Ala.). The other energy panel, chaired by Representative Mike McCormack (D–Wash.), is the advanced energy technologies and energy conservation research, development, and demonstration subcommittee, a title which adequately suggests its domain.

The subcommittee on science, research, and technology, which exercises legislative authority over the National Science Foundation (NSF), has a new chairman, Representative Ray Thornton (D–Tex.). Thornton, 44, succeeds James W. Symington, who was defeated in last year's senatorial primary in Missouri.

Thornton, in his third term, is an attorney who followed an electoral pathway which lawyers often follow into Congress—he was a prosecutor and then state attorney general before being elected to the House in 1972—but Thornton's education provided him with more of a technical background than most lawyers in Congress have. He earned a political science degree as an undergraduate at Yale, but was enrolled in a Navy reserve program which required him to take a number of science and mathematics courses. As a Naval officer during the Korean war he served in communications and navigation assignments and has kept up a general interest in science and science education.

Committee staff regard him as generally knowledgeable about science and scientific issues. Thornton says that among the things he hopes the subcommittee will examine is the chronic question of research grants for industry, and he says that he is interested in seeing a move toward a uniform patent policy for all government agencies which support research.

Like other subcommittees, Thornton's panel will have to deal with first things first—the necessity to examine and report the NSF authorization bill in order to meet the deadline required if the full committee, in turn, is to meet the 15 March due date in the congressional budget-making schedule.

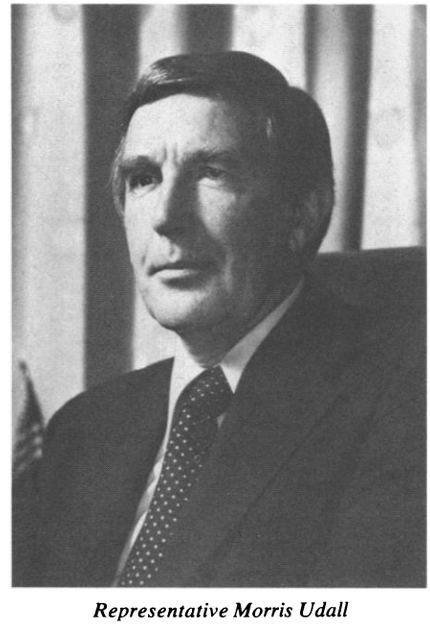
At this point, the subcommittee has been signaled that the Carter Administration will not seek major changes in the NSF budget sent to Congress by President Ford (*Science*, 28 January).

Thornton will have another tie with basic research in this Congress. He and

Representative Ray Thornton

Representative George Brown (D–Calif.), chairman of the Science and Technology subcommittee on environment and atmosphere, both have seats on an Agriculture subcommittee which this year takes formal responsibility for agricultural research.

The change in the subcommittee's brief was made in good measure because of the reappraisal of agricultural research which has been gaining momentum in recent years (*Science*, 21 May 1976). Until now, research matters in Agriculture had been handled by the full committee and as a result had received only passing attention from the committee. In the last Congress several other issues, including food stamps, were also handled by the full committee. So both because research is perceived as an increasingly important subject and because of the wish to unburden the full committee, responsibility for research was assigned to what is now the subcommittee for department investigations, oversight, and research chaired by Representative E. de la Garza (D–Tex.).



Representative Morris Udall

For Science and Technology, the consolidation of energy R & D responsibilities accelerates the committee's transition away from its original identity as "the space committee." Although it was established in the late 1950's as the Committee on Science and Astronautics, the stress during its first decade of existence was very much on the astronautics. With the decline of NASA budgets and of public interest in the space program the committee looked to other scientific horizons, and when the House reformed its committee structure and reshuffled functions the space committee was renamed the Science and Technology Committee.

The new importance of energy both in the committee and in the bigger scheme of things in Congress is reflected by the demand for seats on the two energy R & D subcommittees. The two energy panels are now the biggest by far in the committee. The Flowers subcommittee has 17 Democratic and 7 Republican members, and McCormack's subcommittee has 16 Democrats and 7 Republicans. Space science and applications are now handled by a single subcommittee chaired by Representative Don Fuqua (D–Fla.) with nine Democratic and four Republican members. At the peak, four subcommittees dealt with space activities. The subcommittee on science, research, and technology was not overrun by aspirants for seats when the committee organized—it has seven Democrats and two Republicans assigned to it. But three of the Democratic members—Brown, Fuqua, and McCormack—are chairmen of other subcommittees, and its members are regarded as knowledgeable.

Energy questions are obviously perceived in Congress these days as where the action is. The cold winter has created another energy emergency. But, since the new Administration is expected to propose new energy policies and to seek to reorganize the government structure that deals with energy problems, for the moment there is a decided mood of "waiting for Jimmy."—JOHN WALSH

Erratum: As several readers have pointed out, in an article on penicillin-resistant gonorrhea (*Science*, 24 December), it stated "In the hope of making patients feel guilty, scientists . . . recently agreed to give them [venereal diseases] another name. . . . The sentence should have read, "In the hope of making patients feel *less* guilty. . . ."—B.J.C.