

CEQ partisans in Congress. The President is reported to have personally and pointedly made the decision on CEQ in the final stages of preparation of the reorganization measure. CEQ, however, is likely to undergo further scrutiny when the reorganizers come to the areas of energy and environment.

In moving to overhaul EOP, Carter was honoring a campaign pledge. As a candidate, he almost made a litany of a promise to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government by a thoroughgoing reorganization. He said specifically that he would cut the White House staff by 30 percent. Carter apparently decided that reorganization, like charity, should begin at home, and set out to make the action on the EOP a model for what is to come.

The President's chief instrument is the Reorganization Act of 1977 signed on 6 April which empowers him to submit reorganization plans to Congress over the next 3 years. These plans take effect unless disapproved by Congress within 60 days. Congress has unvaryingly gone along with such plans.

With nothing less than the reorganization of the entire federal bureaucracy as the eventual aim, a fairly elaborate staff structure has been established to pursue what is called the "President's Reorganization Project." Carter himself is titular head of an executive committee on reorganization, and has an assistant for reorganization, Richard Pettigrew, who serves as administrative officer of the executive committee. The bulk of the staff work will be done by a group of civil servants and temporary employees lodged in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

The reorganization study on EOP was given a rush priority, and Atlanta banker A. D. Frazier was brought in to head the effort. While the impression has been that the group was dominated by "outsiders," that is, nonbureaucrats, its members are credited with acquiring a good grasp of how things actually work in Washington and with having sufficient political sensitivity to touch base with constituencies of EOP subdivisions on Capitol Hill and elsewhere.

Heading the working group which looked at OSTP, CEQ, and other offices which deal with science and technology was Frank Wilson, 31, who, before he joined Frazier on the EOP task force, managed an information systems group in the suburban Washington office of Informatics, Inc., a California-based company.

According to Wilson, the Frazier task force took an in-depth look at EOP and sought to identify which functions of the

office directly served the President and which didn't. He says his own group concluded that the legislation creating OSTP was essentially sound and that OSTP dealt with "crosscutting" issues with which the President is concerned. The group was also impressed with Press's qualifications and with congressional support for OSTP.

Wilson notes that they were also influ-

enced by Defense Secretary Harold Brown's arguments in favor of the office and science adviser Press. Wilson says the group recognizes that the usefulness of the science office is "really a personal matter between the President and the science adviser. If the President has confidence in the science adviser, he'll be willing to make use of him." And Carter, said Wilson, has confidence in Press. So

Briefing

Congress Kills Research Money for Smithsonian Scientists

Congress has followed through on its announced intent to tighten the reins on the Smithsonian Institution by eliminating the research awards program run by the privately incorporated Smithsonian Research Foundation (SRF). The foundation, whose primary function has been to administer the awards, is also to be abolished, as recommended by a General Accounting Office report early this year.

The Smithsonian requested \$450,000 for the program, all of which is for research by Smithsonian employees. Congress instead allocated \$110,000 to conclude ongoing research, and told the institution that if it wanted to continue the program it would have to find a new way to administer it.

The SRF was established in 1966 after it became illegal for the National Science Foundation (NSF) to make grants to federally employed scientists. By providing funds free of the fiscal year and Civil Service limitations attendant on appropriated funds, it has functioned as a "mini-NSF" within the institution, according to assistant secretary for science David Challinor.

But Congress has become increasingly disgruntled with the overly flexible way in which it thinks the Smithsonian has handled some of its public funds (*Science*, 20 May), and the SRF was apparently deemed the most prominent example of insufficient accountability to the legislature.

Challinor says it will be very difficult for Smithsonian scientists to "compete with their peers" if the awards program is abolished. The money is not much in relation to the institution's \$88-million appropriation, but he says the program has supplied 80 percent of the funds that go into basic research at the institution, and its loss would be a "violent blow." But he

believes a way will be found—perhaps by making some new arrangement with NSF—to get the money back, and that with some "imaginative administration" it will be possible to continue the program in a form satisfactory to all parties.

A Senate staffer says the easiest solution would be for the Smithsonian to ask Congress for a direct appropriation for research by its employees. But that would reintroduce the problems of inflexibility that the SRF was designed to circumvent.—C.H.

One Hand Lights Up While the Other Wags a Finger

Fans of preventive medicine have often called attention to the fact that the government on the one hand—through the Agriculture Department's tobacco subsidies—encourages tobacco consumption, while on the other hand it makes noises about the perils of smoking.

The perennial conflict bubbled into the news recently thanks to Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) Secretary Joseph Califano. Califano, an ardent ex-smoker who refers to "Marlboro country" as "the cancer ward" made overtures to Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland about rethinking tobacco subsidies which amount to about \$79 million a year.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Bergland wasn't interested. "The department cannot involve itself in the health aspects of tobacco," is the way he sees things.

Meanwhile, James Fallows, a young speechwriter and antismoker on President Carter's staff, wrote his chief a memo urging him to take a stand on tobacco subsidies. Carter sent the memo back with the scribbled notation: "I refuse to be drawn into this fruitless issue."

So, that, this year anyway, is that.

—C.H.