

forced to do so after only a week in office, the Air Force extended the month-by-month funding process from February through the end of June.

If the height of cleverness is to be able to conceal it, the same is true of political skill. Carter's White House was evidently the first to perceive that the strong political passions on either side of the B-1 issue could be largely defused by a combination of curtailing the B-1 and endorsing the cruise missile. Within this framework, Carter was free to concentrate on the technical issues, and his aides to portray the decision as managerial, not political, in nature.

In preparing for his decision, Carter is reported to have read an influential

Brookings Institution study on the B-1 prepared by two former Air Force colonels, Alton H. Quanbeck and Archie L. Wood. Using a systems analysis approach, they concluded, just as would Carter, that "We see no reason to make a commitment to produce the B-1," and that modernized B-52's equipped with cruise missiles should be considered as an alternative.

Another major influence is said to have been the advice received from Secretary of Defense Harold Brown. Before the decision Brown had made several statements on the B-1, all of them equivocal. In April 1976, when still president of Caltech, Brown declined to sign the FAS petition stating that the B-1 was

not worth the cost. "Sorry, your draft statement on the B-1 doesn't represent my views," Brown wrote the FAS. "Neither does the opposite, which others have asked me to say. In the end, I suppose I may have to make up my own statement." Brown wrote shortly afterward to Proxmire, saying that he had read the Quanbeck-Wood study and a Defense Department analysis known as the Joint Strategic Bomber Study and had found that the Defense Department "has the best of argument in terms of accuracy, clarity of assumptions, and defensibility of conclusions."

It is not known what advice Brown gave Carter, but after the decision the Defense Secretary explained he had re-

## Briefing

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### Press Meets the Press

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The President's science adviser met reporters recently in what invited description as a frank Frank Press press briefing. The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), which Press heads, had just come through the reorganization of the Executive Office of the President virtually unscathed (*Science*, 29 July). Press and his office were, so to speak, off probation and, in his first general meeting with the science reporters, he made it clear that he feels on comfortable terms with the President and, what is probably equally important, with other senior White House staff members.

A major matter of interest to scientists and engineers who are White House watchers has been how the science adviser himself elicits advice from the scientific community. For a decade, the President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC), made up primarily of industry and university scientific all-stars, provided the inputs. Then PSAC antagonized President Nixon with what he regarded as gratuitous advice, and in 1972 science was temporarily dispossessed from the White House.

Now, since OSTP acquired not only a new legal lease on life under President Ford but also the seal of approval from the Carter Administration, the question of outside advisers comes up again. Press ruled out a restoration of PSAC, at least in the foreseeable future. Alluding to the President's dislike of permanent advisory committees, Press said he was "not go-

ing to establish a PSAC-type operation [now], nor is my intention to do so in the near term."

OSTP, however, is using outside advisers and will continue to do so, said Press, calling such panels "the guts of the office." The new pattern will be, however, that consultants will be enlisted to work on specific projects and, in most cases, will stop being consultants when the projects are completed.

Press said that OSTP and its consultants have been involved in a number of projects, most of them in the national security area, but noted that the office's purview is "broadening out." Responding to questions he said that his office had not been involved in the decision on production of the neutron bomb. He added that he had been "fully briefed" but did not contribute to the President's decision against production of the B-1 bomber. Press said he had, however, been invited to participate in weapons systems evaluations and in discussions about the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT). Press is an earth scientist with bona fides as an expert on nuclear test verification problems.

While no permanent advisory structure is in the offing, Press has named two former colleagues on the M.I.T. faculty as "senior consultants." Jack Ruina, a faculty member and administrator at M.I.T., has had extensive experience both as a government official and adviser on military R & D and arms control matters. He will advise Press on national security and technology transfer issues. Eugene B. Skolnikoff, a political scientist and director of the Center for International Studies at M.I.T., who also has had considerable

Washington experience, will advise mainly on international science and technology. Both will serve part-time. They too will be concerned with particular projects and there is no intention of building a sort of poor man's PSAC.—J.W.

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### Science Finally Admitted to Congressional Press Gallery

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*Science* has finally made it into Congress.

This periodical—after many years of being excluded from the periodical press galleries of the House and Senate—has been granted a waiver from gallery rules so that its reporters can obtain congressional press cards.

*Science* and other publications such as *Science News* and *Chemical and Engineering News* have been kept out of the gallery as a result of a rule against publications of nonprofit organizations—the assumption being that these publications engage in lobbying. The AAAS, which does not lobby, therefore has been grouped with such organizations as the National Rifle Association, which do.

Common sense did not prove sufficient to resolve the issue, but after a year of complex haggling, the untiring efforts of News & Comment writer Luther Carter, and finally, intercession by Senator Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.), the impasse has been broken.

Now *Science* has the same privileges long accorded such publications as *Oil and Gas Journal* and *Modern Tire Dealer*.—C.H.