

## Congressional Science Fellowship: Child Policy Applications Invited

The American Association for the Advancement of Science invites applications for the sixth year of its Congressional Science Fellow Program.

### Program

The AAAS selects individuals from a broad range of disciplines and science-related professions to spend one year working in some area of Congress, and administers the program for its own and other sponsors' Fellows. The AAAS provides a two-week orientation. Each Fellow chooses his or her own assignment with guidance from the AAAS.

### Awards

This year the AAAS will make five Congressional Science Fellowship Awards: four in some area of child and family policy—that is, child development, education, health policy, etc., and one in an unspecified area. The fellowship award includes an \$18,000 stipend for the period of one year, beginning 1 September 1978, and \$1500 for moving and travel expenses. Interested applicants requiring a higher stipend are encouraged to discuss their situation with the program director.

### Application

Candidates may apply from any physical, biological, or behavioral science or field of engineering, or any health, education, or child-policy related area. They must be AAAS members or concurrently applying for membership.

Information on the selection criteria, application procedure, and program details are available from **Dr. Richard A. Scribner, Director, AAAS Congressional Science Fellow Program, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.** Deadline for application is 15 March 1978. Announcement of the awards will be made before 1 May 1978.

## LETTERS

### State and Local Science Policy

I read with great interest the editorial "Intergovernmental cooperation in science" by William D. Carey (25 Nov. 1977, p. 785). There is little doubt that state and local governments are being confronted with problems for which the optimum solutions require scientific and technological counsel. At all levels of government, many legislative and regulatory prescriptions reflect the fact that the prescribers are inadequately schooled in the fields of science and technology. It is highly beneficial that, as Carey points out, "governors and mayors and legislators are reaching for scientific and technical advice" and that public interest organizations of state and local leaders "are all converging in the sponsorship of new arrangements to bring science and technology into the act."

Carey recommends that there be "a better match between state and local needs and federal research and development priorities" and "entrée for the states and cities to the science policy staff of the President." This may be all to the good, but in the real world "intergovernmental science" of itself will not achieve tangible results, such as economic development, an increased number of jobs, and better performance of services. Private industry, including and perhaps especially small business, working with local governments and often with state governments, has historically made great contributions to the solution of government problems. This has been because individuals in private enterprise must make realistic judgments about the feasibility and the economic implications of alternative approaches, at the same time applying the innovative talent for which American industry is famous. None of these dimensions should be omitted from our national science policy.

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Carey's editorial on intergovernmental cooperation in science is related to a new experimental agency—the Institute for Policy Studies—created by the Oregon state legislature. The Institute's purpose is to serve the legislators by providing them with scientific and technological information for use in the policy-making process.

The Institute focuses on long-range problems affecting the state. It treats impending policy issues within this con-

text. It attempts to assemble the best available information about a policy area for presentation to decision-makers. Top-of-the-line business, labor, political, and academic leaders participate in Institute seminars, forums, and conferences. These programs have resulted in a unique exchange of ideas and have stimulated and maintained vigorous dialogs on critical issues facing the state.

For example, the Institute has been active in water policy. It sponsored a statewide conference regarding last spring's drought and is organizing the leadership community of Oregon to react to the regional report on a Columbia River Basin policy developed by the Pacific Northwest River Basins Commission. The Institute is also organizing forums throughout the state on local water policy issues. In all cases, the scientific and technological expertise of faculty members from the state's universities and of invited national figures has been educational and stimulating to those involved in the policy-making process. Similar programs in economic development, aspects of energy and human services, and school finance are also being developed.

Carey's editorial is an incisive articulation of both the exciting and the important aspects of intergovernmental cooperation. Likewise, his pinpointing of the critical need to accomplish this task deserves note. Oregon's Institute for Policy Studies is a case of Carey's point in action.

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### Research Management and Government Accounting

I wish to comment on Deborah Shapley's article of 25 November (News and Comment, p. 804) concerning research management scandals. In her review of the attitudes of academic research investigators, I feel that Shapley does not fairly express a legitimate and widespread attitude toward federal accounting practices. In my view, the federal government certainly has a right to a complete accounting showing that investigators are providing full value for monies granted. Existing federal accounting practices, however, do not reflect a realistic view of the way basic scientific research must be done. I suggest that federal accounting move in the direction of trying to estimate the value of research done in determining whether the grant has been adequately administered. De-