

Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW). HEW is apparently regarded by some VA partisans on Capitol Hill as having designs on the VA hospital system. Also citing the role of a former Academy employee in drafting HEW guidelines on the numbers of hospital beds in particular regions, Satterfield said, "The conclusion these facts promote concerning

an interrelationship between HEW and the National Academy of Sciences are disturbing. In my mind it renders any health study or health position by the National Academy of Sciences suspect as to its objectivity and, therefore, highly questionable."

Satterfield went on to say that "a number of consultants employed by the

Academy for the study agree that the report is not responsive to the congressional mandate and that it does not agree with their own observations made as site visitors. These consultants reported to the committee that instructions they received from the Academy in the conduct of their assignment appeared to suggest that their findings would be contrived

Briefing

'79 AAAS Meeting Moved from Chicago to Houston

The AAAS has changed its reservations for next year's meeting from Chicago to Houston. On 13 February, the association's board of directors voted the shift from Chicago to demonstrate support for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Previously, the board had decided to hold the annual meeting only in states that had ratified ERA, but, at its December meeting, the directors decided to hold the Chicago meeting as planned because of a commitment to the Conrad Hilton Hotel and because of the long lead time required to make meeting arrangements.

In reversing itself, the board apparently took into account expressions of concern from individual AAAS members and from affiliated societies about meeting in a non-ERA state.

AAAS executive officer William D. Carey says that there was a "buildup of opinion" between the December and February board meetings. Carey said that the AAAS women's caucus had been effective in alerting the board and that a growing awareness of board members of deep and intransigent problems in expanding opportunities for women in science contributed to the decision. The board had also been notified that a resolution advocating a move out of Chicago would be introduced when the AAAS Council met at the annual meeting in Washington.

Rather than wait for an expression of feeling by the council, the board voted 4 to 2 to withdraw from Chicago with two members abstaining. Four voting members of the board were not present.

The board received legal advice on its commitment in Chicago before taking action. When the possibility of a pullout was communicated to hotel officials in Chicago, Hilton informed AAAS that if a deci-

sion to move the meeting were made, it would be impossible "to replace the loss of business," and the hotel's lawyers would "be in touch" with the AAAS. A spokesman for the hotel told *Science* on 16 February that he was not at liberty to say what action the corporation plans.

When the discussion of a change of venue arose, AAAS staff canvassed possible alternative sites and settled on Houston as best meeting criteria set by the board—including its location in a state which had ratified ERA. Cities where the association's annual meetings will be held have been designated through 1985. Atlanta, on the list as the host city of 1983, is the only city located in a state that has not ratified ERA. The board has directed that negotiations to move the 1983 meeting be initiated.

The AAAS is not the first professional organization to vote not to meet in states whose legislatures have not ratified ERA. The American Psychological Association, the Modern Language Association, and the National Education Association are among the 50 or so groups that have elected to boycott non-ERA states. The APA has voted not to meet in 1979 in Atlanta but has until the summer of that year to complete alternative arrangements. Since AAAS, on the other hand, will be meeting earlier than it did this year—in the first week in January—barely 10 months are left. So the association is probably under greater pressure than other national organizations with big meetings in carrying through a policy of institutional lustrationism.

Anti-Jensen Petition Makes Council Agenda

For the second year in a row, the election of educational psychologist Arthur R. Jensen as a AAAS fellow was the major

topic of debate at the annual meeting of the association's council. Last year, at a session marked by considerable acrimony and confusion (*Science*, 11 March 1977), Jensen's name was singled out for debate from a list of nominees who were ultimately all approved as fellows. This year, the issue was raised again in the form of a petition characterizing Jensen's work on black-white IQ differences as racist and asking that the council action making Jensen a fellow be rescinded.

The committee on council affairs, which serves as an executive committee for the 84-member policy-making council, proposed a suspension of the rules to permit discussion of the petition submitted by faculty members from the University of Connecticut and to provide a period of discussion to enable the sponsors of the petition to speak.

The petition on the agenda was a composite of several prepared by members of the International Committee Against Racism (CAR), an organization founded at the University of Connecticut to combat various forms of racial persecution and discrimination. It now claims some 31 chapters in the United States and Canada. The group was making its first appearance in force at a AAAS meeting.

The speakers, in frequently impassioned terms, enlarged on charges in the petition that Jensen's work relating IQ differences between blacks and whites to genetic differences provides a "popular rationale for racism," and that the scientific basis for Jensen's work has been called into question. The critics argue that AAAS recognition of Jensen by electing him a fellow gave the appearance that the association endorsed his views.

The committee on council affairs itself proposed a "clarifying" statement which in modified form was ultimately adopted. This statement named no names but noted that election does not necessarily imply endorsement of a fellow's complete work.

rather than observed." Responses to a questionnaire circulated by the committee staff on this matter are to be appended to the hearings which have not yet been published. Satterfield has not been joined by other legislators in this line of criticism. Presumably, the GAO will pursue the issues raised by Satterfield.

Asked about Satterfield's accusations,

Academy president Philip Handler observed that the committee had formulated the policy recommendations, not the staff, and that he was satisfied that HEW had no influence on the report. On the matter of disgruntled study contractors, Handler said he had consulted committee members about it and "sees no reason to pursue it further."

The offending press release was the subject of an apology by Handler before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on 17 October. The headline on the release was "Report Finds Role of VA Health Care Obsolete/Recommends Integrating with Community Services," and the lead began: "Too many beds, poorly allocated staff, too few facilities

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The statement concluded, "AAAS wants it understood that we have never supported and do not support doctrines based on the supposed superiority or inferiority of races, or sexes, or national groups which serve to rationalize social, economic, and educational inequities or discrimination."

The council rejected a proposal that it appoint an expert committee to examine the credibility of Jensen's scientific work and to make recommendations on what action should be taken. During the discussion, several council members expressed concern that Jensen's right to due process be protected and there were scattered suggestions that Jensen's work had been misunderstood or misinterpreted.

The CAR petition was never voted on directly, perhaps in part because of a procedural Catch 22—the AAAS constitution and bylaws make no provision for reversal of a fellow's election. In voting down the proposal for an evaluation committee by a substantial 28 to 12 margin, the council seemed to be responding to warnings that no committee—no matter how expert—could resolve the issue, and that creation of such a committee would lead to the indefinite prolongation of the dispute.

Future of AAAS Fellows— A Poll and a Moratorium

After agonizing over the case of a particular fellow, the AAAS Council went on to discuss the institution of fellows in general. Critics have called the creation of fellows anachronistic in an organization which has grown as large and diverse as has the AAAS. The chairman of the council's committee on fellows, Robert D. Allen, of Dartmouth, gave his personal view that the system depended on to award the honorific title has become un-

workable. He noted that the information supplied on nominees is inadequate and the time available to consider the nominations is insufficient, and observed that 7 of 21 sections, including some of the largest, this year failed to submit nominations.

After discussion, the council decided to approve the 195 nominations recommended by the committee for this year, but to poll the general membership on the next ballot for election of officers for their views on awarding the status of fellow in the future. Meanwhile, they declared a moratorium on the nomination process. Currently, there are about 16,000 fellows among the roughly 128,000 AAAS members. At the meeting the council polled itself on continuing to create fellows and came up with a vote of 25 to 15 against.

Sociobiology Baptized as Issue by Activists

Styles of protest at AAAS meetings have changed since the turbulent times of the late 1960's and early 1970's, but this year's meeting saw brief revivals of older forms with picketing by opponents of nuclear power and an assault on the rostrum by critics of sociobiology in which Harvard's Edward O. Wilson was the target of a water-throwing episode.

The latter incident occurred on the afternoon of Wednesday, 15 February, during the final session of a 2-day program, titled "Beyond Nature-Nurture," devoted to a discussion of sociobiology. A group of protesters identified with the International Committee Against Racism trooped up to the dais as Wilson was being introduced, chanting uncomplimentary things about sociobiology and Wilson, whose book *Sociobiology* won broad public attention and has stimulated considerable controversy.

During the confusion, Wilson was doused with water. The panel moderator invoked the AAAS rule that permits protesters to speak on condition that the meeting then continue. By this time, however, the audience was in an uproar, and it took several minutes for order to return. The moderator then made an apology to Wilson and his copanelists which prompted a standing ovation from the audience. Whereupon Wilson, who had to take all of this sitting down because his ankle was in a cast, proceeded with his paper on "Trends in Sociobiological Research."

Science for the People, a group of political activists who focus on scientific issues and have become a perennial presence at AAAS meetings, concentrated their activities this year on opposition to sociobiology but pointedly disavowed any involvement in the Wilson incident.

The antinuclear protest, which took the form of an orderly demonstration on Monday, 13 February, was organized by the Washington area Mobilization for Survival. The protest was originally to be directed at Washington State Governor Dixy Lee Ray, a former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. But the group decided to carry on when Ray canceled her appearance, citing pressure of official business, since the replacement speaker was Representative Mike McCormack (D-Wash.), who is also regarded as pronuclear. According to a spokesman for the Mobilization, the demonstration was planned because it is felt that scientists have not made adequate efforts to raise moral questions implicit in the use of nuclear energy. The demonstrators numbered about 30 schoolchildren, many of them preschoolers, and 40 or so adults. The group paraded around the room carrying signs and placards before the talk began and then trooped out. A contingent of District of Columbia police arrived on the scene after being alerted that a demonstration was in progress, took one look at the demonstrators, and departed.

John Walsh