and tests used by [mental] facility staff to arrive at the opinion that an individual can be released without peril—and in New York they are remarkably elaborate—the fact of the matter is that the opinion can never be more than guesswork dressed up in the false cloth of reassuring pseudoscience." Alan Stone, the chairman of the American Psychiatric Association's commission on judicial action, told *Science* that "it is very hard for a psychologist, psychiatrist, or even a properly fed computer to decide who is dangerous." Another psychiatrist, Abraham Halpern, who is assisting a New York State senator with legislation to abolish the insanity defense, told *Science* that "a judge, a high school student, or a jury is better at predicting dangerousness than a psychiatrist."

If Halpern and DOMH have their way, testimony about dangerousness would not be needed because a defendant would be serving a sentence determined in advance. Kolb even feels that such a determination will have therapeutic value. "The likelihood of malingering of psychosis would be lessened as the party adjudged guilty would realize from the beginning that a determination of his sentence would be made by the court," Kolb said.

Testimony Still Allowed

The authors of the DOMH report emphasize that they are not attempting to exclude psychiatrists from the courtroom but are trying to restrict the focus of psychiatric testimony. David Bazelon, the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., and the author of a major court decision on the insanity defense, told *Science* that "Whether or not the defense is abolished, expert testimony by psychiatrists will still be taken into account under the rubric of a defendant's intent to commit a crime. You can't get rid of the need to establish intent."

Any move to restrict the testimony will not be universally popular among psychiatrists, however, and already it is known that many lawyers and judges in New York will not support it. The DOMH survey showed that, while most of the respondents were dissatisfied with the current insanity defense, most also favored alternatives other than the diminished capacity rule. Public defenders were the only group to express a majority view in favor of it. In contrast, abolition of the insanity defense was endorsed several years ago by the National District Attorneys Association.

If New York actually does abolish the insanity defense, this action probably will have an effect on the activities of other states, because New York is often a leader in setting judicial policy. Illinois and New Hampshire also are said to be considering a change in their insanity plea structures.

One factor that may influence action in New York was an incident that occurred in Buffalo on 19 February, two days after the DOMH report was released. On that day, a man who had been charged in 1974 with murdering two children and shooting three others, and who then was found not guilty by reason of insanity, disappeared from the DOMH psychiatric facility where he had been placed. The incident has caused a great stir there.

—R. JEFFREY SMITH

Fermilab Director Resigns: Cites Subminimal Funding

After a protracted struggle with scientific budget makers, the director of the country's largest accelerator has resigned over the inadequacy of current and upcoming research support.

Robert Rathbun Wilson, who became something of a scientific notable and congressional favorite for the speed, style, and economy with which he built the 4-mile accelerator at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, in early February carried out his threat to resign if the fiscal 1979 budget did not meet his minimum terms.

Last fall Wilson wrote to James Schlesinger and others in the Department of Energy saying that he would not be able to continue in his post if a project to double the accelerator's energy were not given at least $30 million in funding for 1979. The funds are to build a new ring of superconducting magnets in the tunnel of the present accelerator and thereby raise the peak energy of the facility from 500 to 1000 giga electron volts (GeV). Money for such construction projects is usually spread over several years. In this case, Wilson argued, it was needed at once to meet the competition of the new European "SuperCERN" accelerator that has begun operating with comparable energy and more than twice the present operating budget of the Fermilab.

The fiscal 1979 budget approved the project, but contained only $15 million for the energy doubler, $5 million in research and development funds, and $10 million for the start of construction. (Wilson called the project the energy doubler/saver because the superconducting magnets would use less power, saving $5 million per year in the lab's electric bill.) After the budget was made public, Wilson, citing the "indecisive and subminimal" support for the doubler and "my concern that the future viability of Fermilab is threatened," resigned. He will, however, continue as acting director until a successor is named.

Norman Ramsey, president of the Universities Research Association (URA) which manages the laboratory for the Department of Energy, called Wilson's resignation a "tremendous loss" to the laboratory at this "critical time." Ramsey told *Science* that the URA had set up a search committee to select a new director as expeditiously as possible. Wilson, in his letter of resignation, highly recommended his deputy, Edwin Goldwasser, for the job. Wilson himself expressed a strong desire to stay at the laboratory in the capacity of head of the doubler project. In recent years he has devoted more and more effort to the project, spending about half his time on it in the past year, according to researchers at Fermilab.

In quite visible ways, Wilson put his personal mark on the laboratory in the Illinois plains near Batavia (*Science*, 6 September 1974). His style of management has been bold and aggressive and he became personally involved in the details of almost everything that went on in the laboratory. This included not only the physics of accelerator building, but also the graphic design of the laboratory logo, the architectural design of several of the laboratory buildings, and the importation of a herd of buffalo to graze in the middle of the accelerator ring. A

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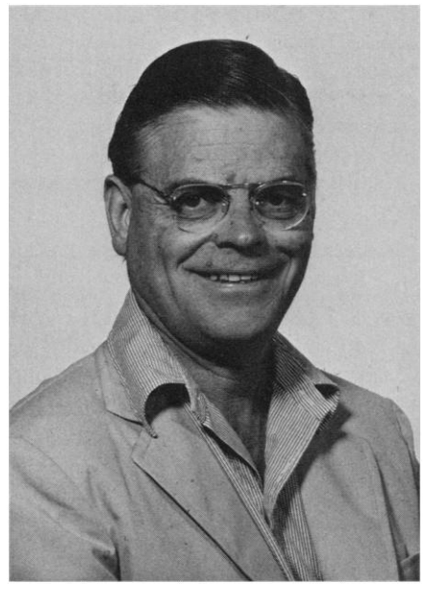
sculptor by avocation, he was at one point reportedly offered a joint appointment in physics and architecture by Cornell University.

After he took over the directorship of what was then called the National Accelerator Laboratory in 1967, he quickly found ways to reduce the project's cost from $350 to $250 million while more than doubling the energy of the original design (200 GeV). Wilson pushed for magnets and ancillary equipment capable of 500 GeV, sensing that large price reductions were about to occur in solid-state magnet power supplies. The price reductions he predicted subsequently occurred and the gamble paid off. The 500-GeV accelerator was completed on schedule and slightly under the pared-down $250 million price. Some of the leftover money was used for early work on the doubler and several million dollars were returned to the government. Because of his feats at Fermilab and previously at Cornell (where the 12-GeV electron accelerator is named after him), Wilson is known among his peers as a builder. One prominent physicist speculates that the slow pace of Fermilab's second-generation building project finally "broke his heart."

The circumstances of the resignation were puzzling because efforts were made to get more money for Fermilab, as John Deutch, the research chief of the Department of Energy recently told that department's high-energy physics advisory committee. Furthermore, the fiscal 1979 budget did give the doubler/saver status as a construction line item for the first time. (Authorization of the full $38 million has been recommended to Congress, to be spent over 3 years.) In the same budget, the operating funds for all of high-energy physics rose 7.5 percent and Fermilab's increase was 8 percent. This year's budget is considered particularly favorable to high-energy physics because it recommends two new accelerators to Congress (the $275 million ISABELLE storage rings at Brookhaven and the Fermilab doubler) after a period when new accelerator starts were spaced at least 5 years apart.



Robert R. Wilson

What reasons other than budgetary Wilson may have had for tendering his resignation just as the Fermilab doubler's future seemed assured are the subject of much speculation in the community of physicists. One associate attributes it to Wilson's flair for dramatic moves to solve persistent problems. Dramatic actions were a part of his style at Fermilab, and according to one report he threatened to resign during the construction of the laboratory in order to obtain certain management concessions from the head of the Atomic Energy Commission. Another anaylsis is that Fermilab has prospered but not yet reached its full flower, and that Wilson's hope for the future rests heavily on the access the doubler will provide to a new regime of physics. By normal administrative procedures, Wilson would have retired in July 1979, about 2 years before the scheduled completion of the first phase of the doubler. The rush funding Wilson was seeking would, of course, have facilitated earlier completion. Nevertheless, last November the Fermilab board, according to Norman Ramsey, offered Wilson an extension of tenure until 1980 and he declined it. A final speculation is that he simply wanted to unburden himself of the heavy administrative responsibility of the directorship (which includes such things as labor negotiations and power reductions during coal strikes) so that he could devote full time to the new project. If that is the case, then perhaps the resignation was what one physicist called "the ultimate sacrifice" for the project.—WILLIAM D. METZ

Bird Lovers and Bureaucrats at Loggerheads over Peregrine Falcon

A popular and scientifically respected program to restore the DDT-stricken peregrine falcon to the eastern United States has been thrown into uncertainty by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For the last year Service officials have been raising legal objections to certain aspects of the program, such as whether foreign falcons can be released in the United States and whether all parts of the program can be supported under the Endangered Species Act.

The Service's attitude has provoked a torrent of protest from ornithologists who consider its objections to be legal technicalities inspired by misunderstanding of peregrine biology. In the last few weeks the Service has been showered by critical letters from universities, ornithological societies, and conservancy agencies both in the United States and abroad. A typical protest letter, from Smithsonian Institution director S. Dillon Ripley, condemns the Service's objections as ridiculous and compares them to medieval theological wrangles about the number of angels that could dance on the head of a pin. Keith Schreiner, associate director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, says that a new policy now being formulated will answer the ornithologists' objections.

The peregrine falcon is a bird of particular interest to ornithologists. It is beautifully marked, has a spectacular flight, and falls like a thunderbolt to catch its prey in midair. In its position at the head of a long food chain, the peregrine was particularly vulnerable to DDT. The pesticide interfered with its eggshell formation and rapidly decimated the populations which once flourished in the continental United States. A few dozen pairs of peregrines survive west of the Rockies, but the eastern peregrine has been extinct for two decades.

The idea of restoring the peregrine to its eastern ranges has been made feasible by Tom Cade, a Cornell University ornithologist who has learned how to breed the falcons in captivity, a feat achieved

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