

Among the various field laboratories operated by DOE, the reviewers found that the quality of research could be improved in a number of institutions. Many of the multipurpose DOE laboratories have lost their original well-defined purpose, which was in most cases the development of nuclear power, and as a result the "crispness of their mission has slowly eroded," said the reviewers. The laboratories have diversified to try to cope with the changes in mission of their sponsoring agencies and in the process have been losing their effectiveness. The result of this is that basic research becomes isolated from the rest of the laboratory and quality control becomes more difficult as research loses its motivation. The reviewers found that several national laboratories require a new definition of

their roles in order to be as effective as they have been in the past.

Sparing no aspect of energy research from a probing eye, the reviewers also had some hard conclusions for the way the Energy Department uses university talent and industrial expertise. Whereas the Defense Department spends about 40 percent of its basic research funds at universities, only about 20 percent of DOE's basic research is university-based. The reviewers found that the universities not only have less research support, but also have inadequate opportunities to compete for such support. "Existing research is not properly distributed among DOE labs, the Energy Research Centers, industries and universities," said the Buchsbaum group. The group recommended that the budget for

basic energy research at the universities should be increased, even at the expense of development activities.

Criticizing almost every aspect of the Energy Department's activities, the reviewers might have been expected to raise many hackles. But the language is so diplomatic that it apparently was found palatable. Although no individual in the department has been given the responsibility for implementing the review's recommendations, the top echelon has reportedly accepted the overall message. That message appears to be that in the rush to expand alternative energy sources, the sort of research that can be counted on to spark new directions and provide the data needed for long-term gains has been unaccountably overlooked.—WILLIAM D. METZ

Briefing

Handler Scores Soviet Anti-Semitism

The President of the National Academy of Sciences, Philip Handler, had sharp words for the increase in anti-Semitism in Soviet science when he testified before a subcommittee of the House Science and Technology Committee on 4 October.

In "present circumstances" Handler said in an official statement, "anti-Semitism seems to have become almost official, resulting in reduced access to higher education, to the political system, and to academic research and administrative posts. . . . For example, papers in Soviet mathematical journals by Jewish mathematicians, for years about one-third the total, have essentially disappeared from the current Soviet mathematical literature."

Handler had still harsher language for those non-Jewish Soviet mathematicians who participate in or condone the repression of their colleagues. He called it "appalling" that "seemingly highly cultured individuals at home in the abstract reaches of modern mathematics can be party to such practices. One cannot help but recall the obscenity of Nazi leaders reciting the words of Goethe."

Handler also testified that the scientific exchange program between the American and Soviet academies of science, which began in 1959 after the death of Stalin, should continue. Through it Americans can influence Soviet scientists,

Handler said, and these as a general group "comprise perhaps the most liberal, independently thoughtful group in their closed society. Perhaps one day they may convince those in political power that . . . repression must inevitably breed rebellion."

Handler's remarks on the recent rise in anti-Semitism echoed the concerns of others, including Handler's onetime critic, Jeremy J. Stone of the Federation of American Scientists. Stone, who also testified before recent House hearings evaluating the Soviet-American science exchanges, later explained to *Science* that the vigorous foreign campaign to help certain Soviet Jews emigrate has a dark side in the form of the backlash against those Soviet Jews who remain. "Russian anti-Semitism, always prevalent, seems to have seized upon the fact that some educated Jews are permitted to leave the country in order to discourage the education and employment of the Jews who remain. It is rumored that now even half-Jews are banned from entry to Moscow University. Russians cannot even apply to emigrate; the possibility that some Jews can leave must surely antagonize Russian anti-Semites. What to do about this backlash is not clear."

The recent backlash is a new twist in a 50-year trend. Soviet sources have said that possibly 20 percent of the scientists who got their Ph.D.'s at the time of the 1917 revolution were Jewish. In the intervening years, this fraction has decreased; now only 10 percent of young scientists are Jewish, they say.

The information on anti-Semitic trends in Soviet mathematics that Handler cited

is based on a white paper, written by two anonymous Soviet mathematicians who have fled the country, and which is being circulated among some people in Washington.

Endangered Species Office Now Extinct

Snail darters arm yourselves! Grizzly bears growl and take your battle stations! Those species lucky enough to be kept alive under the Endangered Species Act may have to fight for themselves for awhile, for the Office of Endangered Species, which the act created to protect them, itself has been killed.

Some members of Congress who like big dams were very angry that the tiny snail darter and its champions in the Office of Endangered Species of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and others, stopped the mammoth Tellico Dam in Tennessee. So, in the true spirit of politics ("Don't get mad—get even") they have been loading up legislation that would authorize the office for another 3 years with amendments to prevent another Tellico-snail darter fracas. What with one controversy and another, the new authorization had not passed by the time the old one expired on 30 September, and so the office now has no mandate to continue this work.

So the 35 staffers are working on other things for awhile, until the authorization passes, and leaving the mollusks, timber wolves, and red kangaroos on their own.

Deborah Shapley