

Kennedy School Has Niche for Science and Technology

It took a dozen years to do it, but on 21 October Harvard held the formal dedication of the new building housing the John F. Kennedy School of Government. Controversy had forced a compromise that divided the memorial. A presidential library and museum has been sited on the Boston waterfront and the Kennedy school is located on a former streetcar switching yard next to the Harvard houses on the banks of the Charles. Architecturally, the original bold design was given up for a blander exterior for the school which blends better with Harvard neo-Georgian. Inside the new building things are more dramatic, with an open central forum that rises five stories and is intended to make an intellectual agora during the day and accommodate meetings seating up to 500 in the evenings.

The school of government, renamed in Kennedy's honor in 1966, is in transition from the graduate school of government it was to the professional school and research institution that the Harvard administration envisions. Between now and 1983 the present enrollment of about 330 is expected to double. The school will continue to emphasize the graduate degree programs that have attracted mid-career government people as well as graduate students with more conventional credentials. One wing of the new building is occupied by the Institute of Politics, which offers no courses or credits leading to regular degrees and was established to provide an "interface" between academe and the world of practical politics. The school plans to expand its more formal programs which bring in people from government, business, and other professional schools for shorter or longer periods of exposure. As a research institution, the Kennedy school will become something of a center of centers; establishment of six centers devoted to research in particular sectors is projected over the next 5 years.

The first of these centers in full operation is the Center for Science and International Affairs headed by biochemist Paul Doty. The principal focus of the center's work has been arms control and disarmament, but the ambit of its program has expanded to include issues relating to nuclear power and the application of science and technology to development. The center was founded in Harvard's faculty of arts and sciences in 1973 with assistance from the Ford Foundation. Funding commitments from Ford and the university have put the center on a firm financial footing well into the 1980's and have made possible the creation of two new tenured professorial positions. IBM scientist Richard Garwin, an authority on arms control and military technology issues, has been appointed to one of these to serve on a half-time basis initially.

The center is the successor of the Harvard-MIT strategic arms seminar which contributed substantially to U.S. strategic policy in the 1950's and 1960's. Henry Kissinger was active in the seminar when he was on the Harvard faculty and, in commenting on the center when he was in Cambridge a couple of years ago, Kissinger, in a characteristic Henryism, said that the center's objective should be to rebuild the stock of intellectual capital on international security and arms control issues which he had exhausted in the past decade.

Concerning the other research centers contemplated, Kennedy school Dean Graham Allison said that a center on business and government and another on health policy and management are being established. The other three have not been chosen, although there are a number of "candidates."

The Kennedy school is also the base for the long-running



Central "forum" rising five stories in Kennedy School.

seminar on science, technology, and public policy taught by Harvey Brooks, Don K. Price, and others. This seminar, which established the science and public policy beachhead in Cambridge, is likely to continue much as it is, although probably with some connection with the Center for Science and International Affairs.

So the Kennedy school, at last under its own roof, appears to accept the importance of science and technology to public policy. At any rate, it has given the subject the basic earnestness of institutional approval—a place in the program and space in its new building.—JOHN WALSH