

man. The committee's subcommittee on health and scientific research, which oversees NSF and NIH and was headed for a number of years by Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, has been abolished. Its responsibilities are to be handled by the full committee. Jurisdiction over NSF



Orrin Hatch

could be transferred to a Commerce Committee subcommittee headed by Harrison H. Schmitt of New Mexico as a result of a Schmitt request.

Schmitt, a former Apollo astronaut, is the new chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, replacing a western Democrat, Senator Howard W. Cannon of Nevada. Schmitt will chair the subcommittee on science, technology, and space, formerly headed by Adlai Stevenson of Illinois who did not seek reelection. Schmitt will have a further say on science and health matters as chairman of an Appropriations Committee subcommittee on labor, health, human services, and education.

New chairman of the full Appropriations Committee is Mark O. Hatfield of Oregon, replacing Warren G. Magnuson of Washington who was defeated in November. Jake Garn of Utah will chair the Appropriations HUD-independent agencies subcommittee that oversees NSF, NASA, and Environmental Protection Agency funding. The subcommittee's former chairman, William Proxmire of Wisconsin will now be the ranking minority member.

Easterner Robert Stafford of Vermont replaces Jennings Randolph of West Virginia as chairman of the Committee on Environment and Public Works. A newly created subcommittee on toxic substances and environmental oversight is chaired by freshman Senator Slade Gorton of Washington. The subcommittee will have jurisdiction over environmental

research and development, the National Environmental Policy and Toxic Substances Control acts, noise pollution, and drinking water.

James A. McClure of Idaho is chairman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, succeeding Henry M. Jackson of Washington. The subcommittee on energy research and development is chaired by Pete V. Domenici of New Mexico. Domenici is also moving into the chairmanship of the Budget Committee which orchestrates the budget process.

The Armed Services Committee, chaired by John G. Tower of Texas, who replaced John C. Stennis of Mississippi, has abolished its subcommittee on research and development. Its functions will be handled by a new tactical warfare subcommittee headed by Barry Goldwater of Arizona who was a member of the displaced R & D panel.

The new chairmanships generally represent a tilt to the right politically as well as to the west geographically. Hatfield and Gorton rate as Republican moderates, but Domenici, Garn, Goldwater, Hatch, McClure, Schmitt, and Tower all assay out as varying grades of conservative.

White House Science Still in Transition

Engineer and entrepreneur Simon Ramo, a founder of TRW, Inc., continues to dominate speculation on who will fill the post of President's science adviser in the Reagan Administration. Asked to comment on reports current on Capitol Hill that he has been tapped for the post, Ramo would say only that he had not been offered the job; he added that no such invitation had been extended to any other in a group of what he called "excellent candidates" for the job.

The White House science office itself has apparently survived transition-period scrutiny by the Reagan team. At a meeting between transitioners and outgoing Carter Administration officials, top Reagan aide Edwin Meese III reportedly questioned the need for such an office. Informed sources say the Reagan team was giving the whole White House organization a hard look with a view to reducing staff where possible. The im-

pression is that the questioners were satisfied with the case made for the Office of Science and Technology Policy by those who have been advising the new Administration on science matters. It is understood that staffing of the science office was given an upgraded priority, and a serious search for a science adviser was begun in mid-January.

The White House science job is one of a number of subcabinet posts that were still unfilled at the time of President Reagan's inauguration and on which final decisions are apparently being handled by the busy White House staff. Word on developments on the White House science front has been meager, in part because of more-than-usually strict observance by both insiders and outsiders of the usual no-comment rule.

Another favorite in early odds-making on the science adviser post, Arthur M. Bueche, took himself out of consideration for the job. General Electric senior vice president for corporate technology, Bueche shared the co-chairmanship of the Reagan advisory task force on science and technology with Ramo. Bueche also served in Washington during the latter part of the transition as a policy coordinator for science and technology, but made it clear he was not a candidate for the White House job.

Brown Departs Research Subcommittee

The House of Representatives is still in the throes of organizing its committees, but Representative George E. Brown, Jr. (D-Calif.) has indicated that he will give up the chairmanship of the Science and Technology Committee's subcommittee on science, research, and technology to head an Agriculture subcommittee.

Brown has been an active chairman of the panel that oversees National Science Foundation activities and science policy issues generally. He was designated chairman of the Agriculture subcommittee on investigations, oversight, and research at a recent caucus of the committee's Democrats. Confirmation as chairman hinges on the vote of the full committee, but is regarded as virtually assured.

John Walsh