received little support from scientists in his reelection campaign, which he narrowly won. The subcommittee is a focal point for science policy deliberations in the House, and Brown during his tenure as chairman came down hard on NSF for not putting more of its resources into applied research. Brown has now assumed the chairmanship of an Agriculture subcommittee.

The subcommittee on energy development and applications, which deals with solar, coal, and other nonnuclear energy matters, will be chaired by Fuqua, who, as chairman of the space subcommittee, saw the space shuttle through the difficult passage from drawing board to launch pad. Fuqua says he now wants to focus on renewable resources. In a jurisdictional shake-up, the subcommittee has also gained oversight of high energy physics as practiced at places like Brookhaven, Fermilab, and Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. (Previously, high energy physics had been handled by McCormack's subcommittee.) As chairman of both the full science committee and the energy development subcommittee, Fuqua is the principal Democratic spokesman in Congress on matters of energy development and application.

Air Academy Drops Ban on Sickle Carriers

A class action suit initiated by a Minneapolis black man has helped end a ban that kept blacks with sickle cell trait from entering the Air Force Academy.

Steve Pullens was an aspiring pilot when he was expelled in 1979 from the Academy on the grounds that his just-discovered sickle cell trait might endanger his health during rigorous training at high altitudes. A star athlete, Pullens filed suit late in 1980 at the U.S. District Court in Minneapolis (*Science*, 16 January). The Air Force then announced on 3 February that it would start accepting applications from those with sickle cell trait, reversing an 8-year-old policy. An Air Force spokesman admitted that the class action suit was one consideration in the change, but also said the policy had been under review since being initiated in 1973.

Critics say the health problems associated with sickle cell trait have been exaggerated to the point that they restrict opportunities for blacks. In people who have the full-fledged disease, the distortion of red blood cells during a sickle cell crisis can block the flow of blood to vital organs. In carriers of the trait, however, the health effects are much more debatable.

In recognition of this, former Deputy Secretary of Defense W. Graham Claytor, Jr., in the final days of the Carter Administration, issued a service-wide order to drop any restrictions against individuals with sickle cell trait. Coming from an outgoing official, the order was mostly symbolic. So far, only the Air Force Academy has taken action, and the Air Force itself will continue to prohibit those with sickle cell trait from training as pilots or copilots. The whole policy, however, is under review throughout the services, and more restrictions are expected to be dropped.

The dropping of the ban at the Air Force Academy does not mean that black cadets who were expelled will automatically be readmitted. Pullens, for one, is still pursuing his class action suit, although his lawyer, in the aftermath of the Academy decision, expects that the Air Force will soon settle out of court and readmit Pullens.

Budget Cutters Clip Away at Science

Fat finders in the Office of Management and Budget have circulated a tentative "hit list" on Capitol Hill which contains the following:

- A $629 million cut in the budget of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, a reduction that would cause production of a fifth space shuttle orbiter to be scrapped. Also eliminated would be Galileo, a project scheduled to probe the atmosphere of Jupiter in 1986 as a follow-up to the Pioneer and Voyager missions.
- A $240 million reduction in the budget of the National Science Foundation.

The list is tentative, and could change substantially before Reagan submits his budget message to Congress on 18 February.

Academy Hosts Meeting on Conservation of Monuments

In 1818, the King of England sent Sir Humphrey Davy to Naples so that the chemist could help unroll a cache of papyrus scrolls that had been discovered 60 years earlier in a villa near Herculanum. With the methods that had already been tried, centuries would elapse before the whole library was unrolled, and all of intellectual Europe was getting impatient. Davy used chemical methods on 11 scrolls, but when they were unrolled, the writing had been washed away.

From its equivocal start with Davy, the record of scientists working in the conservation of antiquities has improved, but conservators report a reluctance by scientists to get involved

Decaying sculpture at Brooklyn Museum

with practical conservation. This reticence of late has been unfortunate. Historical monuments around the world are deteriorating with ever more rapidity due to the onslaught of weather, ill-conceived preservation attempts, urban construction, acid rain, and admiring tourists.

To highlight the problem, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) sponsored a symposium from 2 to 4 February on the Conservation of Historic Stone Buildings and Monuments. About 200 scientists, professional conservators, and interested citizens attended. The meeting place? At the NAS, of course, itself a national historical monument faced with New York Dover marble, reportedly in a remarkable state of repair.

William J. Broad