

sidering major cuts in programs and personnel; this would include tenured faculty.

Michigan State University's (MSU) trustees last month declared a state of financial emergency which clears the way administratively for cutbacks. University of Michigan officials earlier indicated that a "reduction in force" of 520 of its 14,800 employees appeared necessary.

Just how tight funding will be is uncertain. The state legislature is likely to vote higher education appropriations for next year that would just about keep pace with inflation. However, there is widespread skepticism that these increases will survive. Sagging tax revenues and rising costs of state aid programs resulting from the travails of the auto industry could put unprojected pressures on the state budget. And Reagan Administration economies are expected to reduce federal money flowing to the states. Michigan Governor William G. Milliken would then have the task of trimming expenditures to fit the funds available. Inevitably, this would translate into reduced funding for higher education.

Midcourse budget corrections are not new to higher education in Michigan. State funds for the current year were not voted until well after the academic year began, and then universities had to adapt to a budget about 5 percent below that of the preceding year's.

Retrenchment, in fact, has become a way of life for Michigan higher education since the early 1970's. An MSU official says his university has not had an increase in state funds above inflation for a decade.

Prompted by financial hard times, the state's three biggest universities—Michigan, MSU, and Wayne State—are all at varying stages of institutional reviews. MSU, a Big Ten behemoth with 46,000 students, is facing a \$30-million shortfall in its \$450-million operating budget. These reviews are aimed not simply at making ends meet, but at "downsizing" the universities—an auto industry term meaning to cut size while retaining quality—to meet the economic and demographic realities of the times. Meanwhile, the universities are keeping one eye on Washington and waiting, so to speak, for the other ax to drop.

—John Walsh

Denver Attorney Nominated to Head EPA

President Reagan has nominated Anne Gorsuch, a corporate attorney and former Colorado state legislator, to be administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Gorsuch, 38, now works for Mountain Bell, the Denver telephone company, and specializes in equipment leasing, antitrust research, and labor disputes.

Her only previous contact with environmental issues came as a member of energy, transportation, and state affairs committees in the Colorado legislature, where she served from 1976 to 1980. There, she was frequently at odds with environmentalists. In particular, she was instrumental in stopping state participation in EPA's hazardous waste program.

The Colorado Open Space Council gave her successive vote ratings of poor, poor, good, and average. Heidi Schmidt, the group's executive director, says "Gorsuch does not have the depth of experience needed." Dan Luecke, director of the Environmental Defense Fund's Denver office, called Gorsuch "an unfortunate choice. She fails to see a legitimate role for the government in environmental protection." Neither group plans to testify against the nomination, primarily because the chance of blocking approval is slim. An aide to Senator Robert Stafford (R-Vt.), chairman of the committee that will review the nomination, says that Stafford believes she is "bright enough to overcome her lack of administrative experience."

A self-described conservative, Gorsuch's nomination was reportedly urged by James Watt, Senator William Armstrong (R-Colo.), and brewer Joseph Coors. She is said to have won out over several competitors largely by keeping a low profile.

Gorsuch graduated from law school at the University of Colorado at age 22, and became a Fulbright scholar in India. She first worked for a bank and then in the Denver district attorney's office, where she supervised a staff of nine. She also served as a hearing officer for the local real estate commission and state boards of cosmetology, optometric examiners, professional nursing, and veterinary medicine.

The nominee for deputy administrator at EPA is John Hernandez, an engineering professor at New Mexico State University.—R. Jeffrey Smith

Reagan May Transfer CEQ out of White House

The Reagan Administration is considering dismantling the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and transferring its functions to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under a plan still being debated as *Science* went to press.

A final decision is expected before 10 March, when the White House must transmit the CEQ budget to Capitol Hill. White House aides are saying that something less than the current \$3.2 million appropriation will be sought.

The White House cannot kill the council outright, but it can transfer its functions to EPA or to the Interior Department unless Congress objects.

The immediate reason for the transfer is apparently that CEQ, as an advisory and coordinating body with imperfectly defined responsibilities, does not fit neatly into the expected blueprint for White House decision-making, a view also shared by President Carter at the beginning of his Administration. One CEQ staffer notes that "We're a thorn in the side of the people trying to make a perfectly ordered White House structure work." An additional reason might be the antipathy of some Reagan advisers to the environmental viewpoint at CEQ, no doubt enhanced by the use of the council as a forum for attacking Reagan in the waning days of the presidential campaign. CEQ, under Carter, was considered a source of significant support for policies on nuclear proliferation, nuclear waste, and solar power—policies that Reagan has already disavowed.

Environmental groups can safely be expected to fight the transfer if Reagan goes ahead. Former CEQ chairman Gus Speth, now with the Conservation Foundation, says that "the real importance of that institution is its place in the executive office. Any transfer will precipitate a costly battle for the Administration."

—R. Jeffrey Smith