Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar and a Danforth fellow. He earned his medical degree at Cornell, where he became an assistant professor and eventually an associate dean.

He has testified before a congressional committee that he believes the current drug approval process takes too long and requires acceleration—a view that puts him in agreement with the Administration's general emphasis on deregulation. But a colleague at Hershey says that Hayes sees most drug issues with "a great sense of balance. He can see the viewpoints of physicians, patients, and the drug companies." He once served as a consultant for the drug firm Hoffmann–La Roche.

Arthur Hayes, Jr.
Will head FDA

Jere Goyan, the previous FDA director, says that Hayes has "good scientific credentials." Goyan had appointed Hayes to a search committee for a new director of the agency's Bureau of Drugs.

In a somewhat less obvious choice, the Administration has selected Raymond Peck, a vice president of the National Coal Association, to be the new director of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Peck, an attorney with previous government experience, says that he favors more use of cost-benefit analysis in automotive regulation, an end to federally mandated fuel economy standards, and only voluntary installation of auto airbags for passenger protection.

A spokesman for the American Trauma Society, a group of medical experts and businessmen, expressed concern at the confirmation hearing that Peck "may reduce monitoring of dangerous design flaws in automobiles . . . and diminish attempts to design a crash-proof automobile." A representative from Physicians for Auto Safety commented that Peck "might just as well have been appointed Surgeon General." Peck's former employer, the coal lobby, has also contributed senior vice president Glenn Schleede to the Office of Management and Budget, where he is the third-ranking official under Dave Stockman.

The Administration has appointed Edward Noble, a Tulsa oil executive, as the new director of the Synfuels Corporation. Noble replaces John Sawhill, who was previously deputy secretary of energy and a president of New York University.

—***R. Jeffrey Smith***

Yale Adopts Plan to Handle Charges of Fraud

Yale medical school has instituted a new procedure for dealing with charges of fraudulent research, according to Philip Felig, a professor at Yale who recently testified at hearings on data falsification held by a House science and technology subcommittee. The new procedure takes adjudication of the charges out of the hands of the accused. Last year, Felig's career and the Yale campus were shaken by an administrative imbroglio (*Science*, 3 October 1980) in which charges leveled against Felig and a data-fabricating colleague were basically ignored for 1 year, in part due to Felig's continuing assurances that his associate's work was credible. Says Felig: "Recent events indicate that trust may be misplaced. Consequently, mechanisms should exist within an institution for a review process which takes the matter out of the hands of involved investigators."

At Yale, any charges arising in the future will be reviewed by an ad hoc committee of senior faculty not involved with the research, according to Samuel Thier, chairman of the department of medicine. They will review charges and data and pass judgment on the credibility of the work. During the evaluation, none of the data may be published, and the results of all reviews will be shared with the accuser. If the charges are substantiated, institutions sponsoring the research will be notified.

Thier says this protocol has been adopted by the department of medicine and that chairmen of other departments have adopted similar procedures.—***William J. Broad***

Exxon Scraps Motor Device

The Exxon Corporation has renounced its highly publicized alternating current synthesizer, an energy-saving device for electric motors. In 1979, Exxon announced that the synthesizer could result in conservation of 400,000 barrels of oil a day if widely used by industry (*Science*, 16 November 1979, p. 773). The company had announced at the same time that it was acquiring the giant Reliance Electric Company in order to swiftly bring the invention to market. The $1.8 billion purchase generated controversy in Congress, which was then considering legislation to make oil companies spend the fruits of price decontrol on searches for more energy instead of on profitable mergers.

After 2 years of study with the help of Reliance engineers, Exxon says that its device has a faulty design, rendering it costly and unreliable in practical use. The company's argument now is that only by acquiring Reliance would they have learned of these flaws.

Meanwhile, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which is suing Exxon to force divestiture of Reliance, has uncovered an internal Exxon document that lends support to the idea that the synthesizer development was crafted as a fig leaf to cover the controversial acquisition. A memo from a vice president of Exxon Enterprises, a subsidiary, to George Piercy, a vice president of Exxon itself, suggests that Reliance was picked as the result of a study of possible corporate acquisition targets. "We then realized the advantages for commercializing the energy-saving device," the memo reads.

The memo would appear to contradict Piercy's 1979 congressional testimony that "consideration of acquisition of Reliance Electric began as a means of commercializing" the synthesizer technology. The FTC's suit against Exxon will probably not be resolved for several years.

—***R. Jeffrey Smith***