

the job, but many said they were not interested. One major problem was a marked reluctance to give up high industrial salaries to take a mid-level White House job. Keyworth was among those approached.

It is understood that Teller and Agnew were among those who first brought Keyworth's name to the attention of the White House, and they have both continued to support his candidacy. Agnew even attended the April meeting of the National Academy of Sciences to try to quell unease within the scientific establishment about the nomination. Equally important, however, was Keyworth's service on a search committee that two years ago chose Agnew's successor as Los Alamos director.

That committee included several people who now have strong ties to the Reagan White House. Particularly important is William Wilson, a Reagan-appointed regent of the University of California, who now holds the post of the President's Special Envoy to the Holy See. He is a member of Reagan's so-called kitchen cabinet. Wilson says he was asked by the White House for his opinion on Keyworth, and he told *Science* that he has found Keyworth to be "an extremely competent scientist and administrator."

This was not the route through which most of the other potential candidates for science adviser were brought to the attention of the White House. The names had come mostly from a few prominent scientists who headed a task force that provided advice to the incoming Administration during the transition, and who have been providing informal advice ever since.

As for the workings of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), which the science adviser heads, its relationships with other White House groups will only be decided in detail after an adviser is appointed.

Keyworth says, however, that he has had lengthy conversations with Richard Allen, director of the National Security Council, and Martin Anderson, Reagan's chief domestic policy adviser and that, if nominated, he would expect to work closely with them. He also says that he has been assured that the science adviser would have an input into the budget process. Finally, he has been told that the science adviser would have access to the President.

Keyworth took his bachelor's degree at Yale University in 1963 and a Ph.D. in physics from Duke University in 1968; he has been at Los Alamos ever since.

—COLIN NORMAN

Mormons Rebel on MX

The Mormon Church, in a statement that could prove to be of considerable political influence, has come out strongly against the proposed MX missile-basing system in the desert basin of Utah and Nevada. The church rarely makes statements on political issues—the chief exception being its opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment—but Mormon president Spencer W. Kimball and his two counselors, "after the most careful and prayerful consideration," decided the MX was a moral issue that required a stand.

In the two-and-a-half page statement, the leaders note that the basing plan will include thousands of miles of heavy duty roads, with 4600 shelters for 200 missiles. "With such concentration, one segment of the population would bear a highly disproportionate share of the burden . . . in case of an attack . . ." and that furthermore, such concentration "may even invite attack." The statement mentions problems with water resources and the environment as well as the prospect that the influx of workers "would create grave sociological problems, particularly when coupled with an influx incident to the anticipated emphasis on energy development."

The statement says the current concept "is based on a treaty which has never been ratified" (SALT II), and predicts that, without the treaty, "the proposed installation could be expanded indefinitely." Besides, note the three leaders, "history indicates that men have seldom created armaments that eventually were not put to use." The Mormons were the original settlers of Utah where they intended to "establish a base from which to carry the gospel of peace. . . ." Thus, their leaders find it "ironic" that the same area has been selected for a "mammoth weapons system potentially capable of destroying much of civilization."

The 1 million Mormons in Utah make up 70 percent of that state's population; Mormons also make up more than 30 percent of the Nevada population. They are extremely conservative, patriotic, and defense-minded. The Utah population has been divided about the MX system, and observers say agitation against it

has subsided as many have come to regard it as inevitable. The Mormon statement is therefore expected to breathe new life into the anti-MX movement.

Utah's Democratic Governor Scott Matheson publicly stated his opposition a year ago; the four members of the Utah congressional delegation in Washington have been more ambivalent. They have come out with cautious statements expressing respect for the Church's position and stressing the need to look for alternative basing modes. Senator Jake Garn (R-Utah) and Senator Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.) are planning hearings on the basing mode in late May.

The Administration is expected to make its own recommendation about deployment of the MX in July, after it sees the report of a 15-member panel, headed by Charles Townes, which is now studying the issue for the Air Force.—**Constance Holden**

A First Brush with New Broom at NAS

Dismissal of the National Academy of Sciences' top staff man for international activities recently fueled speculation that the succession of the Academy's president-elect Frank Press might be accompanied by a turnover in senior staff. R. Murray Todd, executive secretary of the Commission on International Relations and staff officer for the Academy's Committee on Human Rights was given notice in mid-April that his employment at the Academy would end on 1 July when Press takes over. Todd is a 19-year veteran of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council staff.

Both Press and Academy foreign secretary Thomas F. Malone declined comment on the specifics of the matter. Press said that in a dynamic organization there will be comings and goings and the Todd firing was "part of the normal process of institutional change." He said the dismissal was "not a criticism of Murray." Asked whether other staff changes are pending, Press said he had "no plan for massive changes or cutbacks."

Todd says that Press told him he felt that a new president should have