

Judge Fullam now rules in favor of the plaintiff's request for summary judgment against Rorvik and his publisher, J. B. Lippincott Co. of Philadelphia, the next step will be a jury trial to assess damages. Says Arthur G. Raynes, attorney for the British geneticist, "This is a punitive damages case. The big thing is to set up a deterrent." —*William J. Broad*

Administration Filling Room at the Top

The Administration, which has hardly been hasty in naming subcabinet officials, has lately been moving faster to fill the gaps, including jobs with responsibility over science and technology, energy, and the environment.

The White House in mid-June announced President Reagan's intention to nominate **Alvin W. Trivelpiece** as director of DOE's office of energy research and **William Addison Vaughn** as assistant secretary for environmental protection, safety, and emergency preparedness.

Trivelpiece, 50, who will oversee DOE's nonmilitary, longer term research, spent the past 5 years in high technology industry; for 2 years before that he was assistant director in the division of controlled thermonuclear research at the Atomic Energy Commission. During the 15 previous years, he was, first, professor of electrical engineering at Berkeley and then of physics at Maryland.

Since 1976 Vaughn has been director of energy management on the manufacturing staff at the General Motors Corporation. Trained as a civil engineer and attorney, Vaughn, 46, joined General Motors in 1971. From 1960 to 1970 he taught civil engineering at Virginia Military Institute.

President Reagan's choice as chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), **Nunzio J. Palladino**, sailed through Senate confirmation hearings on 17 June and the next day won full Senate approval for a seat on the commission.

Palladino, 64, dean of the college of engineering at Pennsylvania State University since 1966, played a leading part in designing the first reactors for nuclear submarines and early nu-

clear power plants when he worked for Westinghouse in the 1950's. His nomination seems to have been acceptable in both pronuclear and environmental camps from the outset.

The same cannot be said for another NRC candidate, **Thomas Morgan Roberts**, whom the White House has indicated will be nominated as a commissioner. Environmental groups have criticized the choice on grounds that Roberts lacks the technical background for the job. A Memphis investor, Roberts was a former president of the Southern Boiler & Tank Works, Inc. He was treasurer of Vice President George Bush's campaign. Roberts was earlier rumored to be the White House choice for NRC chairman, but the Administration is said to have been dissuaded by objections from Republicans in Congress to his lack of technical qualifications.

Even stronger opposition from environmentalists seems in store for a White House choice for the Council on Environmental Quality, **James A. McAvoy**, 48, head of Ohio's Environmental Protection Agency. The Friends of the Earth reacted to news of Reagan's intention to nominate McAvoy with a free-swinging statement that "denounced" McAvoy for a "record of poor management, hostility to government concerns, and a failure to deal with some of the greatest health hazards in Ohio."

McAvoy, who holds a degree in marine engineering, had 15 years of experience in business when, in 1973, he joined Ohio state government to work in the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, becoming assistant director of the department. In 1979 he was appointed director of the state environmental agency, where he has been a vocal advocate of taking economic consequences into account in making environmental decisions.

Friends of the Earth are joining the Sierra Club and the National Clean Air Coalition in publicizing McAvoy's record and statements in the Ohio job in an effort to deflect confirmation. Alluding to the recent successful campaign of opposition to the proposed head of the State Department's human rights office, Friends of the Earth legislative liaison Geoffrey Webb said of McAvoy, "We are hoping he will become the Ernest Lefever of clean air."

—*John Walsh*

Pepper Wants "A" Out of NIADDK

Just when the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases has been renamed the National Institute of Arthritis, Diabetes, and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, a House legislator wants to take arthritis out and create a separate institute which would focus on this disease alone.

Claude Pepper (D-Fla.) says that too many people regard arthritis as "humdrum—nothing to make a fuss about." A new institute would give the disease, which afflicts 31 million Americans, important visibility, said Pepper, 80, chairman of the Select Committee on Aging at a hearing on 10 June.

A committee aide said that Pepper proposed the idea at the suggestion of philanthropist Mary Lasker. He said Pepper hopes to introduce the legislation before Congress recesses in August. The bill would first be considered by the health subcommittee, chaired by Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), of the Energy and Commerce Committee. A subcommittee aide said that it was much too early to predict if the bill would find favor among the subcommittee members.

At the hearing, the director of the arthritis center at the University of California at San Francisco, Ephraim Engleman, argued that a separate program would attract better leadership and result in higher quality research. He said arthritis research last year received less than 2 percent or \$54 million of the \$3.4 billion National Institutes of Health budget. It is "incongruous" to include "such disparate and basically unrelated diseases" in one institute, he said.

NIH director Donald S. Fredrickson disagrees. "It is inevitable to have some conglomeration of diseases," he said in an interview. Arthritis is not a big enough problem and related research "is not rich enough in ideas" to warrant a distinct program. In addition, a new institute would entail unnecessary and expensive overhead costs.

Arthritis "is not being neglected," Fredrickson said. Establishing a new institute "is not the cure for arthritis." —*Marjorie Sun*