

with this assessment is John Bode, Deputy to the Assistant Secretary for Food and Consumer Services. "The reorganization is an attempt to strengthen the role of nutrition information and education. It is not an attempt to de-emphasize human nutrition and the prevention of disease, as some have contended," he says.

Although the public information programs of the unit and the publication of the *Dietary Guidelines* were nationally the most visible and controversial aspect of its work, it was the HNC research programs that riled the federal bureaucracy and had the potential for making a substantial long-term impact on the USDA policy-making apparatus. During

its nearly 3 years of existence, the HNC had doubled its number of national facilities for human nutrition research, going from three to six. The new centers challenged the preeminence of established programs at the National Institutes of Health. For instance, HNC started a program on infant nutrition at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston that

Keyworth to Review Space Program

George A. Keyworth II, President Reagan's science adviser-designate, made his debut before a congressional committee on 20 July, and delivered some forthright views on science policy. He said he is interested in securing some stability in funding for basic research, called the state of equipment in the nation's graduate schools "disgraceful," and indicated that he intends to play an active role in a broad array of policy matters.

The occasion was a hearing, called by Senator Harrison Schmitt's (R-N.M.) subcommittee on science, technology, and space, to consider Keyworth's nomination as director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Since Schmitt played a leading role in bringing Keyworth's name before the White House, the exchanges were extremely cordial and no opposition to the nomination surfaced. Approval by the Senate is now virtually assured.

Keyworth, who has been working at OSTP as a consultant for the past 2 months while his nomination has been pending, said that he has already established a "definite niche in the team" in the White House, and that he has "almost invariably" been brought into considerations of science and technology issues. He also said that he expects to brief the President personally on some issues rather than just routing papers through Reagan's senior advisers, and announced that he intends "to work with, not for" the Office of Management and Budget.

Asked whether he intends to establish a mechanism for securing advice from the scientific community, Keyworth replied that by the end of August he hopes to have made arrangements "to bring in the top scientists in America who are committed to the goals of this office." He has already indicated, however, that he has no intention of simply resurrecting a committee modeled on the old President's Science Advisory Committee (*Science*, 10 July, p. 183).

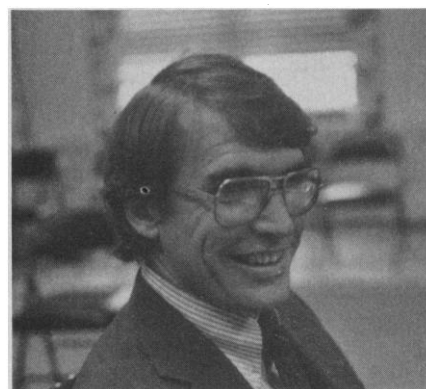
One of OSTP's first major assignments in the Reagan Administration is likely to be a full-scale review of the nation's space program. Indicating that "there is considerable concern in the Administration on the future direction of the space program," Keyworth told the committee that Reagan will soon issue a presidential directive requesting the study. He said that it should be completed by the end of the year, in time to influence the fiscal year 1983 budget, and that it will look into both civilian and defense aspects.

Asked for his views on the state of scientific education in the United States, Keyworth said he believes it is approaching "a point of crisis." Although he studiously avoided offering any specific solutions, he suggested that two serious problems in graduate education in science and

technology are the "disgraceful" and "deplorable" state of scientific equipment, and the difficulties faced by graduate students in obtaining adequate fellowships. It so happens, however, that the Reagan Administration's budget—which was prepared before Keyworth came to town—sought to eliminate a National Science Foundation program designed to upgrade the quality of university equipment and proposed a reduction in support for graduate fellowships.

On energy policy, Keyworth placed himself firmly in support of the Administration's goals. Nuclear power, he

Nominee hot on lasers, cool on solar power



Constance Holden

believes, has been the victim of unsound policies. "I believe that this country has mismanaged an industry and a technology that we developed in the first place," he opined, and added that he expects President Reagan's forthcoming statement on nuclear policy will help to provide a more favorable environment. As for renewable energy resources, Keyworth said that he believes "the probability of solar energy supplying a large percentage of the nation's energy needs is asymptotically approaching zero." Former President Carter's goal of meeting 20 percent of the nation's energy needs with renewable resources is "unrealistic," he told the committee.

In response to a barrage of questions on laser weapons, Keyworth said he believes laser technology "may represent the only credible antiballistic missile technology in the future," but cautioned against launching a crash effort. The Department of Defense should restructure its laser programs toward basic research rather than systems development, he said.

Keyworth's first appearance on Capitol Hill indicated that he has acquired detailed knowledge of many government science programs. It also showed an unusual willingness to give explicit responses.—COLIN NORMAN