

made the first tentative plans for holding teach-ins on 12 campuses in August. By Labor Day they had easily recruited sponsors for meetings at 30 campuses. A month later, 90 had signed up to hold meetings. Van Loon is also surprised to find that among the sponsors are many universities, as he says, that usually show more interest in their athletic teams than in strategic weapons policy.

The list of those speaking at or sponsoring convocation meetings includes many familiar names. Among them are Nobel winners Hans Bethe and Owen Chamberlain, former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, President of the California Institute of Technology Marvin Goldberger, Jerome Wiesner of MIT, Robert Goheen of Princeton, and Paul Warnke, the former director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. "We have essentially drained the pool of people who are knowledgeable and able to speak about arms control," says Kendall. —**Eliot Marshall**

NIOSH Move Is Postponed

The Administration's plans to transfer the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) from the Washington, D.C., area to Atlanta have been "postponed indefinitely," NIOSH director J. Donald Millar said on 8 October.

The institute headquarters, now located in Rockville, Maryland, was scheduled to move on 1 November to the Centers for Disease Control, the agency which oversees NIOSH. But recent congressional action has "stymied" the transfer, Millar said.

On 6 October, the House by voice vote vetoed funds to be used for the move. But even before the full House voted on the issue, the Administration said plans for the relocation were up in the air because the House Appropriations Committee and a Senate appropriations subcommittee had earlier disapproved transfer funds.

Millar said, "We have not abandoned the idea of transferring NIOSH. We still think it's the right thing to do, but we will go along with congressional intent." He said that the Administration might wait until January to

make its case before Congress when the next round of agency appropriation hearings begins.

The Administration believes that relocating NIOSH in Atlanta will help the troubled institute operate more efficiently. But others, such as former NIOSH director John Finklea, argue that the transfer does not guarantee an improvement of what many consider a lackluster performance by NIOSH (*Science*, 9 October, p. 166). Some NIOSH researchers caution that prolonged indecision about the move may hurt staff morale. —**Marjorie Sun**

French Discuss Reviving 1968 University Reforms

The French government has initiated a new round of university reforms. Among other things, the reforms are intended to restore to students and junior staff the larger role in university governance that was originally granted to them in the wake of student turmoil in 1968. Government spokesmen say that the aim is to reverse an "antidemocratic evolution" that has occurred in recent years in university internal relations.

The Mitterrand cabinet decided specifically to repeal measures taken by the previous government that, for example, gave heavier representation on university councils to senior professors. At issue also is the method by which university students have voted in university elections.

The government's "project" for change has received preliminary discussion in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. Under the timetable put forward, the Mitterrand government will offer parliament a comprehensive revision of the law governing France's national system of universities by 1 October of next year. The proposals are expected to cover a broad range of issues, from requirements for degrees to election of university rectors. The debate is also expected to include the question of access to higher education.

Reform of higher education is one of several social and economic issues currently on the national agenda, including discussion of a government decision to trim France's ambitious nuclear power program by ordering

six reactors in the next two years, a third fewer than planned by the previous government. —**John Walsh**

Senate Gives Blessing to Baby Bell

After a 5-year struggle to overhaul the nation's communication laws, the Senate passed a bill on 7 October that would deregulate vast portions of the U.S. telephone industry and allow a subsidiary of the Bell System, nicknamed Baby Bell, to sell computers and enhanced telephone services. The House is expected to pass a companion bill early next year.

The bill requires the Bell System to retain one federally regulated arm to provide long-distance and local service. However, the products and services of Baby Bell—including equipment (such as telephones), enhanced services (such as call forwarding), and new electronic ventures (such as computer terminals)—would be free of federal regulation. AT&T, whose assets of \$135 billion are five times larger than those of IBM, is currently prohibited from marketing computers under the provisions of a 1956 consent decree, which ended a federal antitrust suit.

The Senate bill also frees from regulation the flock of new telephone companies which, during the past 5 years, have successfully competed with Bell for an increasingly large share of the long-distance market.

Critics of the Senate bill, led by Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.), say the requirements for financial separation between the old and new Bell companies are not stiff enough and that revenues from the parent company could be used to give Baby Bell an unfair competitive advantage.

If the Senate bill eventually becomes law, it will be the first comprehensive revision of the Communications Act since it was adopted in 1934. Passage also might force the Justice Department to drop its 7-year-old suit that seeks to break up the Bell System. An agreement to drop the suit with the passage of appropriate legislation was reached earlier this year during cabinet-level deliberations within the Reagan Administration.

—**William J. Broad**