

the political spectrum. The new center reportedly evolved from a proposal, in his recent book *The World Challenge*, for a partnership of industrialized countries, OPEC nations, and less developed countries devoted to adapting the electronics revolution to the needs of the Third World.

The French government will support the center at a level of \$20 million annually and additional funds from OPEC countries and other sources will be sought. Details of the center remain unsettled. Despite its friends in high places, the center was apparently launched without much consultation with the French scientific and political bureaucracies and Servan-Schreiber & Co. could face something of a challenge from the mandarins.

—John Walsh

Committee Votes to Keep DNA Rules Mandatory

A National Institutes of Health (NIH) committee overwhelmingly recommended on 8 February that federal guidelines on recombinant DNA research be kept mandatory but that some of the current rules be moderately relaxed. The vote of 16 to 5 represented a change of heart by the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee. In September, the committee approved a plan that would have made the rules voluntary, but most of the public comment that followed opposed the change for a variety of reasons. The voluntary guidelines were originally drafted by David Baltimore of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Allan Campbell of Stanford.

The passage of the plan to keep the federal guidelines mandatory resolves a fundamental issue that the committee has discussed for 2 years. The new regulations, which were proposed by NIH researcher Susan Gottesman and published in the *Federal Register* on 7 December, would be binding for all institutions receiving NIH funding. Industry is expected to abide by the new guidelines as it has the current regulations.

Under the Gottesman proposal, restrictions will be loosened on the special handling of some experimental organisms but not to the degree that Baltimore and Campbell had pro-

posed. It also would permit researchers to conduct certain experiments previously prohibited. The new mandatory plan must be approved by the acting NIH director.—Marjorie Sun

Harvard, Washington U. Share \$115 Million

Harvard and Washington University in St. Louis will share what is said to be the largest single benefaction so far to institutions of higher education—\$115 million. Harvard will get \$77 million and Washington University about \$38 million from sale of Mallinckrodt, Inc., stock willed by Edward Mallinckrodt, Jr., to the universities 15 years ago. The buyer is Avon Products, which is taking over the St. Louis-based chemicals and health products company.

The stock has been held in a trust administered by directors of Mallinckrodt. Under terms of the will, control of the stock was transferred to the universities in January.

The sale of stock will not have a dramatic impact on the universities' operating budgets since they have been receiving dividend income from almost 2.5 million shares of stock since the bequest. Avon is paying \$50 a share for the stock, which totals 17 percent of Mallinckrodt's outstanding stock. Both universities plan to add the proceeds from the stock sale to their endowments.

As required by the will, income from the stock has been earmarked at both universities for the support of science and medicine. At Harvard, the funds have been used to help underwrite activities in the disciplines of chemistry, physics, and geophysics as well as medicine. At Washington, the funds have been directed into biomedical research. It is not clear whether the will's requirement that the funds be used in specific fields is still binding. Washington University officials have indicated that they will continue to follow the wishes of the donor expressed in the will.

The largest previous direct gift in higher education is thought to be that of Coca-Cola stock valued at approximately \$100 million to Emory University from retired Coca-Cola company chairman Robert W. Woodruff in 1979.—John Walsh

NAS Building Independent Study Capacity

The National Academy of Sciences, under the leadership of Frank Press, is getting private foundations to donate to a fund that will allow the academy much more latitude to initiate its own studies, independent of the vagaries of government sponsorship.

So far, foundations have committed \$1.5 million over the next 3 to 5 years for the fund. According to the NAS executive officer Philip M. Smith, three initiatives are already under way: an exploration of arms control measures, being conducted by a team from the Soviet Academy of Sciences and a team headed by Marvin Goldberger of the California Institute of Technology; a committee looking at ways to enhance healthy competition among industrialized nations; and a committee on government-university relations.

Smith says the academy is also laying plans for establishment of a corporate affiliates program, that would offer industry a closer acquaintance with science policy issues through special seminars, briefings, and reports. Fees from the corporate subscribers would also be made available for academy-initiated studies.

—Constance Holden

Arkansas Declines Appeal of Ruling on Creationism

The attorney general of Arkansas has decided not to appeal a federal court ruling against the state's controversial "creation-science" law. Steven Clark told a press conference on 4 February that the state had little chance of winning.

The law, which was declared to be unconstitutional, would have required the teaching of biblical views on evolution in public schools (*Science*, 29 January, p. 484). "I'll tell you what the insurmountable problem is," Clark said. "That's the law itself," which he described as having, in part, "uniquely religious overtures."

"There will be a better day and a better time on this issue," he added. "I think a bill can be drafted that does meet constitutional standards."

—R. Jeffrey Smith