

the Department of Education. The National Science Foundation (NSF) would also get some \$20 million for a new program to retrain science and mathematics teachers in secondary schools (*Science*, 11 February, p. 748). Congress already has similar legislation in the works calling for funding at a much higher level. And a coalition of higher education organizations is pushing a proposal with an annual price tag of well over a half-billion dollars.

At the moment, the legislation described by one education lobbyist as "the fastest moving train in town," is H.R. 30 sponsored by Representative Carl D. Perkins (D-Ky.), chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee. Under this bill, a total of \$300 million a year would be provided for support of programs ranging from research and fellowships to teacher training and purchase of instructional equipment. Some \$250 million would be directed to the schools and \$50 million used in programs in colleges and universities.

Another bill regarded as having legislative momentum is H.R. 582, titled the National Engineering and Science Personnel Act, introduced by Representative Don Fuqua (D-Fla.), chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee. The Fuqua bill authorizes \$100 million a year for 5 years to help institutions of higher education undertake programs that would help increase the numbers of qualified graduates in science and engineering. Federal support would be given in the form of matching grants from a fund administered by NSF. The bill is unusually flexible on the kinds of activities that could be funded and puts heavy emphasis on cost sharing with the private sector.

Outside Congress, the program with the best organized backing appears to be one put forward by a coalition of 19 national higher education organizations spearheaded by the American Council on Education. In a package of programs costing a total \$575 million a year, the main items would be \$200 million for teacher training, \$100 million for graduate fellowships, and \$200 for instructional equipment.

So far, representatives of elementary and secondary school interests have failed to unite behind a particular proposal on science education. The

major groups—state education officials, local school boards, teachers unions—all agree that federal aid is necessary, but have deep-running differences about how it should be administered.

In the past, the education lobby has been most successful in Washington when it managed to construct an across-the-board coalition backing an agreed proposal. To be effective in a fiscal climate as forbidding as the present one, education advocates will have to do more to subordinate individual organization instincts to a consensus common interest.

—JOHN WALSH

NSTA Nasty to NSB

An old grievance within the alliance promoting federal support of science education surfaced recently when the president of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) blasted the National Science Board (NSB), the policy-making body of NSF, for its record on science education. Robert Yager, a professor of education at the University of Iowa, blamed the board for not opposing the Reagan Administration's earlier moves to dismantle NSF's science education program. He pointed to the lack of "representation of the science education community on the board" and said the NSTA and other science teaching organizations will make a strong effort to see that the statute governing NSB membership is changed to allow such representation. NSB members are now required to be "eminent in the fields of basic medical, or social sciences, engineering, agriculture, education or research management or public affairs."

—JOHN WALSH

Space Program Gets New Congressional Masters

The new congressional committee lineup features two relative novices in key positions with authority over science and technology programs. Senator Slade Gorton (R-Wash.) has gained the chairmanship of the Senate Commerce Committee's subcommittee on science, technology and

space, and Representative Harold Volkmer (D-Mo.) has been named chairman of the space science and applications subcommittee of the House Science and Technology Committee.

Gorton succeeds Harrison Schmitt (R-N.M.), who lost a bid for reelection last year. A moderate Republican who defeated former appropriations committee chairman Warren Magnuson in 1980, Gorton has an obvious interest in aerospace matters, since Boeing is a mainstay of Washington's economy. Volkmer, a fourth-term congressman who has not previously served on the space subcommittee, succeeds Representative Ronnie Flippo (D-Ala.), who has been elevated to the House Ways and Means Committee.

In the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, which has jurisdiction over the National Institutes of Health, a significant change is that the subcommittee on investigations and general oversight has been scrapped. In the last Congress, it was chaired by Senator Paula Hawkins (R-Fla.), who used it to investigate criticisms of the National Cancer Institute. Hawkins remains on the full committee, however.—COLIN NORMAN

NIA Names Director

T. Franklin Williams of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry has been appointed director of the National Institute on Aging, a post that has been vacant since September 1982. Williams is the co-director and founder of the Center on Aging at the University of Rochester Medical Center. His clinical research in geriatric medicine has focused on the care of elderly patients, long-term care and chronic illness, and health services for older people.

One of Williams' top priorities as director of the aging institute will be to train more physicians to teach geriatrics and to do research on aging. He cites a Rand Corporation study estimating that the United States has fewer than one-tenth the number of trained geriatric physicians needed by its academic institutions. He also plans to emphasize basic research on the dementias and related neurological disorders as well as on the aging process itself.—GINA KOLATA