Patent rights still cannot be transferred without a formal agency finding that such a transfer is in the interest of the government and the general public. The government would also retain the rights to some inventions—primarily those of use to the Department of Defense. In addition, the government would keep the option of using an invention in its own programs even if the patent were transferred and would retain so-called "march-in" rights to retrieve patent rights should an organization fail to pursue commercialization with sufficient vigor.

Science, Math Education Legislation on Track

The House of Representatives on 2 March passed a bill providing $425 million next year to improve science and mathematics education in the nation's schools; a parallel effort appears to be gathering momentum in the Senate.

The House bill (H.R. 1310) contains $300 million to be administered by the Department of Education (ED) mostly in the form of grants to schools. Another $125 million in matching grants to higher education would be routed through the National Science Foundation (NSF). The bill sailed through easily on a 348 to 54 vote. Attempts at major amendment of the measure were easily repelled and the bill was passed substantially as it came from committee (*Science*, 11 March, p. 1198).

In the Senate, the education subcommittee of the Labor and Human Resources Committee held hearings on a bill (S. 530) cosponsored by the panel's chairman, Senator Robert T. Stafford (R–Vt.) and ranking minority member, Senator Claiborne Pell (D–R.I.). The bill, which deals only with programs to be administered by ED, calls for $400 million in grants next year. Hearings to consider complementary programs under NSF have been scheduled for 18 April by Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R–Utah), chairman of the full Labor and Human Resources Committee.

Appearance at the hearings by several Republican senators advocating major initiatives in the field seem to indicate that the Administration's bid to keep spending on a new program in science education in eight figures may be trumped.

For science policy buffs, the floor debate in the House afforded a fresh instance of the continuing effort by Congress to legislate the White House Office of Science and Technology (OSTP) into an active role in implementing federal programs. A reluctant OSTP has always insisted that its job is to help make policy not manage programs.

In this instance, there was concern that if conflict arose between ED and NSF on programs, the larger agency, whatever the merits, would outmuscle NSF. Proponents of NSF sought a way to ensure a balanced scale. In committee, Representative Don Fuqua (D–Fla.), chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee, attached an amendment calling on OSTP to coordinate NSF activities with the postsecondary programs of ED. Evidently, OSTP reluctance to assume the role of referee was then successfully conveyed. During floor debate on the bill the language was further amended, to mute OSTP's responsibilities from "coordinating activities" to "to recommend and review the coordinating activities between. . . ." Which seems to get OSTP off the hook again, at least halfway.

History of Science Group Wins NEH Challenge Grant

The History of Science Society (HSS) has been awarded an $80,000 challenge grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to help HHS establish an endowment of its own. The society is committed to raising three times the amount of the grant to establish a fund that will give it financial stability and enable it to do a more effective job of assisting the younger scholars among its members.

Most NEH grants are given to support specific projects in the humanities, but a limited number of challenge grants—84 this year—are awarded for the purpose of aiding development efforts by an institution or organization. The terms of the challenge require that the grantee raise funds from new donors or from increased contributions from traditional donors. The grant is paid in installments—over 3 years in the case of the HSS—with payments reduced proportionately if the grantee falls short of meeting the challenge.

The History of Science Society was established in 1924 by George Sarton, the founding father of the discipline, who had earlier started the journal *Isis*, which is devoted to the history of science and its cultural influence. The discipline and the society developed slowly until after World War II when both entered a period of rapid growth. The number of graduate programs in history of science multiplied and employment opportunities increased both in teaching and in nonacademic posts in libraries and industry archives. The society now has 3600 members.

Because of this recent growth, the society's "demography is remarkably slanted toward young scholars," says Harvard physics professor Gerald Holton who moved into the HSS presidency at the start of the year.

The predicament of these younger scholars in the currently depressed academic economy was a main motive in competing for the NEH challenge grant. The society plans to assist by supporting good scholarship, says Holton. New funds will be used to bolster *Isis* and to revive another publication, *Osiris*, which printed monographs and other longer research papers and helped able young scholars to establish themselves. *Osiris* was suspended because of financial exigencies.

Holton said the society will also seek to foster career development by providing materials for teaching and creating a job exchange which will provide information and assistance on employment.

Holton has an entrepreneurial knack which he demonstrated as a founding editor of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences journal *Daedalus*, initiator of the Project Physics Course, and innovator on other fronts. He and his colleagues not only express confidence about raising the necessary matching money for the challenge grant but are looking beyond to a further endowment drive and to establishing long-term support for the society through a program of corporate associates enlisting industry sponsors.

John Walsh