are interested in ratifying the treaty as is, both as a sign of good faith in negotiations and as a first step toward a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing.

President Reagan said at a recent news conference that he is unconcerned about the Soviets' reaction. "It isn't all that important," he said.

—R. JEFFREY SMITH

Financially, AMA Heals Itself

The American Medical Association (AMA), which in the middle 1970's was a financially ailing organization, has recovered and reports itself to be now in robust fiscal health.

In 1974 and 1975 the symptoms were severe. Membership was declining, the association's flagship publication, the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* was in distress, and AMA's nine specialty journals were losing $250,000 a year. The association's liquid assets were evaporating and it was borrowing $1 million a month to meet its payroll.

According to the AMA diagnosis, the troubles arose because the association simply slipped into a pattern of spending more than its income. The turnaround is attributed to a move to the discipline of a formal planning process.

Economy measures played an important part. Staff cuts were made in publications and other sectors of the organization. The AMA consumer magazine, *Today's Health*, was sold off and one journal, *Archives of Environmental Health*, was also disposed of. At the same time an effort was made to upgrade the remaining publications and build advertising revenues.

Some changes in organizational orientation were also made. In the 1960's, the AMA developed its own version of the generation gap. Apparently because of the association's conservative stance, medical students and young physicians were not joining the AMA in droves—and the AMA was making no particular effort to attract them.

In the early 1970's, membership categories for both medical students and residents were developed. Special low dues were set and changes made in association rules to involve them in governance. Each of the special categories now has about 28,000 members.

Total membership now stands at some 216,000, with the core of regular members at about 160,000. This represents a recovery to the levels of more than a decade ago after a dip in the late 1970's attributed to a couple of sharp increases in dues. Regular dues are now $315 a year.

A newsletter emanating from the office of AMA executive vice president James H. Sammons notes that the association expects operating revenues of $94 million this year, half of it from nondues income, including $20.5 million in advertising revenues. AMA publications are said to be thriving now, including seven foreign editions of *JAMA*, one of which is for the People's Republic of China.

—JOHN WALSH

Cornell, Three Companies Plight Biotech Troth

Another new university-industry venture in biotechnology will involve Cornell and three corporate partners—Union Carbide, Eastman Kodak, and Corning Glass.

The partnership vehicle will be a new Biotechnology Institute at the university's main campus in Ithaca, New York. Cornell faculty scientists and students will work in concert with company scientists on basic research projects with results freely published.

Following a model now becoming standard in university-industry collaborations, patents arising from research at the institute will be held by the university. The participating companies will have the right of first refusal for nonexclusive licences on products of institute research.

The three companies have each pledged up to $2.5 million annually over the next 6 years. Institute operations are expected to begin next September in existing facilities on the Cornell campus. The university has been designated a biotechnology center by the state of New York and Cornell officials hope that state funding for new facilities for the institute will be forthcoming.

None of the three companies are known for research in biology, but all are research oriented and apparently attracted to the new horizons of biotechnology.—JOHN WALSH

Texas A & M to Direct Deep-Sea Drilling

Deep-sea drilling will be getting not only a new drill ship but also a new group to run the operation. On 31 March, the board of governors of Joint Oceanographic Institutions (JOI), the consortium of academic institutions that manages deep-sea drilling, selected Texas A & M University to direct the scientific operations of the next phase of drilling.

Texas A & M won out over the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, which has been running the drilling operation since its inception in 1968. Ross Heath of Oregon State University, the chairman of the board of JOI, pointed out that two aspects of Texas A & M's proposal influenced the unanimous vote—engineering expertise and commitment.

Texas A & M's commitment is in funding. The university has promised to provide a new building to house the deep-sea core repository. William Merrell, associate dean of geosciences, says that the university also offered "an extremely favorable overhead rate," which is being negotiated with the National Science Foundation (NSF). The university will also fill managerial positions with senior faculty members whose salaries will come in part from state funds. The drilling expertise resides particularly in the Texas Engineering Experiment Station located on campus, and generally in the Texas oil industry.

The first task for the new operating group will be preparing a request for proposals for the services of a drill ship. Funded as before by NSF, the drilling will be performed by an as yet unspecified commercial drill ship that will be far more powerful than the present ship, the *Glomar Challenger* (*Science*, 25 February 1983, p. 942). Heath expects that the request will be out in 2 to 3 months, the ship will be modified in fiscal year 1984, and drilling will begin early in fiscal year 1985.—RICHARD A. KERR