

particularly small ones. The rules, for example, apparently forbade an employee of a nonprofit receiving federal funds to spend any portion of his time on advocacy if that person performed any other duties. The rules also proscribed all communication with federal agencies or Congress except on the direct request of the government entity. A nonprofit organization, for example, apparently would be prohibited from sending a report or other information to Congress or a federal agency unsolicited.

With the help of some effective political advocacy on Capitol Hill by the nonprofits, the OMB proposal provoked a strong response in Congress. Representative Jack Brooks (D-Texas) chairman of the Committee on Government Operations took the lead. After hearings before his committee on 1 March, Brooks and Government Operations ranking minority member Representative Frank Horton (R-N.Y.) sent a letter to OMB director David Stockman calling for withdrawal of the rules. The letter drew 170 congressional cosigners in 2 days.

On 10 March OMB announced that the regulations had been withdrawn and that a new version of the revisions would be published within several months, an event the nonprofits will await in the en garde position.

—JOHN WALSH

Animal Welfare and Fetal Research in Bill on NIH

The House reauthorization bill for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has passed the health subcommittee with several provisions concerning animal welfare and fetal research. The animal welfare provision is one of the more controversial measures of the bill, which the full Energy and Commerce Committee is likely to mark up by late April.

The amendment on animal welfare, sponsored by Representative Doug Walgren (D-Pa.), goes farther than any of the other bills introduced this year on the same issue. But it is still less stringent than the one Walgren proposed during the past session.

It includes several requirements that scientists will probably dispute. One would require annual inspections

of researchers' "study areas," which, according to an NIH official, could be interpreted as a scientist's laboratory. It would require a scientist to explain in federal grant applications the use of animals in his or her research. The amendment also authorizes that \$20 million be spent over the next 3 years to develop a plan to study current use of laboratory animals and a way to distribute information about alternative methods.

Another part puts into statute what is already basically NIH policy. The measure would require that animal welfare committees at institutions be comprised of three members, of which one member is a veterinarian and another is a person not affiliated with the institution. NIH policy prescribes a five-member committee, including one veterinarian.

Walgren's bill passed relatively easily in the health and environment subcommittee, which is chaired by Henry Waxman (D-Calif.). But at the last minute, a more moderate bill sponsored by Edward Madigan (R-Ill.) captured several votes. Madigan proposed that the National Academy of Sciences conduct an 18-month study of use of animals in research.

Although Madigan initially had no support for his amendment, he eventually won the votes of several members. His proposal lost 7 to 10. The increased support for his measure may indicate that Walgren's bill will have a tougher time in full committee. A Senate counterpart to Madigan's proposal has already been introduced by Labor and Human Resources Committee chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.). The senators intend to maneuver the proposal to passage as an amendment to the Senate NIH bill.

In addition to the animal welfare provisions, the House bill also includes an amendment concerning fetal research. But this year, the biomedical community is likely to find the current proposal much less troublesome than last year's. The present amendment, sponsored by Waxman, would simply codify some of the current federal regulations governing human experimentation. William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.), who unsuccessfully sponsored a much more controversial bill last year, agreed to go along with Waxman. Dannemeyer's bill would have brought fetal research to a virtu-

al halt by prohibiting studies on "a living human fetus or infant, whether before or after induced abortion." As yet, there is no Senate version of the amendment.

Another provision in the House bill would transfer the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to NIH. An identical measure failed last year in Congress and its prospects of passage in this session are equally dim. Senator Hatch is strongly opposed to the move.—MARJORIE SUN

CDC Chief to Step Down

William H. Foege, the director of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, announced on 6 April he will resign as director, but will be staying on at the agency to concentrate on two specific programs. Foege, 47,



William H. Foege

who assumed the job in 1977, is apparently tired of administrative responsibilities.

Foege told Edward Brandt, Jr., Health and Human Services assistant secretary of health that he wanted to shift gears and focus his attention on CDC's international projects, and also agency-academia programs, such as training grants and fellowships. Foege was responsible for CDC's successful campaign to eradicate smallpox throughout the world.

Brandt has already formed a search committee to select a new director and Foege has agreed to stay on until a replacement is found.

—MARJORIE SUN