the authorization bill for the facility. Representative Norman Mineta (D–Calif.) agreed to sponsor an amendment on the floor diverting money from NCAM. When the vote came up, House Majority Leader James Wright, Jr. (D–Tex.), spoke in favor of the amendment, and, according to one aide, "Members were notifed it was the speaker's amendment." It was approved by 261 votes to 113. Opposition was led by Representative James Sensenbrenner (R–Wis.). According to an aide, he got a call shortly before the vote from Archbishop Rembert Weakland of Milwaukee.

Meanwhile, a House appropriations subcommittee approved a DOE bill in closed session on the same day. According to several sources, it contains money for both the Catholic and Columbia facilities.

The Columbia University proposal did not have any divine connections, but it was approved by the House almost as readily. According to Nicholas Turro, a chemistry professor at Columbia who drafted the proposal, the idea is to establish a National Chemical Research center that will interact with industry in the New York area. Like the Catholic U. proposal, the need stems from the fact that Columbia's existing chemistry research facilities are dilapidated and overcrowded. "In the 1960's," says Turro, "Columbia was asleep when everybody else was putting up new buildings." Columbia decided to seek $20 million from the federal government and raise the balance of $12 million privately.

Representative Charles Rangel (D–N.Y.), whose district included Columbia, was approached in late April and he agreed to sponsor an amendment to the DOE bill. Rangel, with backing from other members of the politically powerful New York congressional delegation, approached Fuqua and worked out an arrangement under which $5 million for the facility would come from DOE's budgets for instrumentation ($2 million), high-energy physics ($1 million), nuclear fusion ($1 million), and accelerator upgrading at Yale and Washington Universities ($1 million). Fuqua announced on the House floor that he supported the redistribution, and the amendment was passed by 215 votes to 150.

All this has left a lot of people surprised and somewhat miffed. Sensenbrenner warned stentoriously, for example, that the votes will "politicize scientific research . . . by encouraging every college and university in the country to contact their representative to obtain a facility, regardless of duplication or its value to the nation."—**COLIN NORMAN**

Texans Woo and Whelm MCC

With Texas-scale help from public- and private-sector backers, Austin, Texas, has landed the high-technology prize of the hour—the R & D cooperative formed to assure U.S. competitiveness with the Japanese in advanced electronics and computers. Austin won out in intense competition over an estimated 52 cities in 22 states to be the home of the Microelectronics and Computer Technology Company (MCC) sponsored by 12 leading high-tech companies.

What seems to have tipped the balance in Austin's favor was Texas's ability to muster broad-spectrum support for the MCC bid. According to MCC's chief, retired Admiral Bobby R. Inman, a decisive point was the commitment by the University of Texas (UT) at Austin and Texas A&M University a hundred miles away to enhance their capabilities in MCC's kind of science and technology. The universities plan a major expansion of faculty, including endowed professorships, in microelectronics and computer science.

A more direct incentive was an offer to lease at nominal cost 20 acres of land at UT's Balcones Research Center on the northern fringe of Austin, and to build and lease on favorable terms an office and research building worth up to $20 million on the site. Texas Governor Mark White took the lead in mobilizing academic, industrial, political and community leaders for the campaign. A key part was played by a special task force made up of influential citizens appointed by White especially to work on snaring MCC. The task force was the prime mover in developing the land and building offer which is based on a mix of public and private funding, with the latter expected to be provided on something like a 3 to 1 ratio.

To ease the transition for MCC immigrants, a number of things are planned, including home mortgage assistance at below market interest rates. In Austin, a relocation center will be set up to provide help ranging from assists in finding housing to arranging utility hookups.

Private funding also figures prominently in the university expansion plans that impressed the MCC board. Sources at both UT and A&M say that the plans for the buildup were for the most part already on the books. A UT official, however, said that the expansion at UT has been "fast-tracked" as part of the effort to attract MCC.

UT vice president for academic affairs Gerard Fonken says that the university expects to put $15 million into new endowed chairs and other faculty positions in the next few years. Some $5 million is already in hand and the rest is expected to be shortly. In all, about 30 new faculty slots in microelectronics and computer science will be created. Also scheduled is an additional $750,000 for support of graduate fellowships and an increase of $1 million a year in university funds for research in the two fields.

A&M officials are less specific but say their university has similar plans for expansion in the two fields. UT and A&M are viewed by some observers as having complementary programs, with A&M emphasizing integrated circuit design and chip manufacturing and UT computer science. The quest for MCC is seen as further promoting a spirit of cooperation in yet another sector between the two traditionally rivalrous institutions which have recently edged toward collaboration in marine science and geoscience (*Science*, 22 April, p. 390).

MCC is expected to begin operating in temporary quarters in Austin in September with a start-up staff of about 40, many on loan from companies belonging to the sponsoring consortium. MCC's budget in the future is expected to rise to as much as $150 million a year, which its Texas hosts hope will make it a catalyst for the growth of a Texas equivalent of the high-tech havens near San Francisco and Boston.

On the day the Texas coup was announced at a press conference in Austin, Inman gave a speech to a joint session of the Texas legislature. His remarks, largely an encomium on research, earned polite applause. As one observer who had been involved in the campaign to win MCC put it, Texas legislators are not known for their sophistication about R & D. "But they're learning."—**JOHN WALSH**