

years of archeological cave sites, which date back 20,000 years and so far represent mankind's most southerly excursion during this point of the last ice age, added an important dimension to the fight over the Tasmanian wilderness region. Archeologists John Mulvaney and Rhys Jones, of the Australian National University, Canberra, have been campaigning vigorously for the federal government to intervene in the Tasmanian government's decision to go ahead with the hydroelectric scheme. Such an intervention would have far-reaching constitutional implications.

Prospects for saving the wilderness area from destruction brightened last December when the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) placed the region on the World Heritage list, which recognizes outstanding environmental and cultural resources. This prestigious and internationally highly visible designation brought significant political pressure on the federal government to extend its powers and overrule the state government, though it was clearly reluctant to do so.

The election in March of Bob Hawke's Labour Party proved to be a key development as the party's manifesto included a promise to stop the construction of the highly controversial dam, if constitutionally possible. The High Court's decision in July, which emphasizes the interests of the aboriginal people of Tasmania, gave the new government the go-ahead for fulfilling its electoral promise.

Mulvaney describes the affair as "one of the most significant constitutional cases since Federation in 1901." More specifically he says it is "the greatest environmental victory in Australian history."—**ROGER LEWIN**

Hayes Resigns as FDA Chief

Arthur Hull Hayes, Jr., is stepping down as commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on 2 September to become dean of New York Medical College in Valhalla. He was formerly a cardiologist at Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine at Hershey.

In his 28 months as FDA chief,

Hayes directed revisions of drug approval and food safety rules, the cancellation of the patient package insert program, and a reorganization of the agency. He personally crusaded for less consumption of sodium, urging food manufacturers voluntarily to label products with their salt content.

During his tenure, the agency has had to weather criticism that it has been less than rigorous in monitoring the safety of drugs. Critics cite as evidence the problems with the anti-



Arthur Hull Hayes, Jr.

Sought to streamline drug regulations.

arthritic drug Oralflex and the anti-inflammatory medication Zomax that developed after the drugs went on the market.

Hayes has also had to weather some personal criticism. In particular, the inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services questioned Hayes's acceptance of honoraria, amounting to some \$4000, for speeches and, in a few instances, free travel and accommodations from industry. No wrongdoing was found, but a U.S. attorney criticized Hayes for not "scrupulously avoiding" the appearance of impropriety.

With the presidential election little more than a year away, it may be difficult to find a good candidate to take the job, and the Reagan Administration may thus not seek a replacement for Hayes. In departing early, Hayes follows a precedent set by his predecessors, Jere Goyan and Donald Kennedy, both of whom stayed only about 2 years in the job.

—**MARJORIE SUN**

NRC Asked to Deny Reactor Spares to India

Six public interest groups* have petitioned the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) not to approve the licenses necessary to export reactor components for India's Tarapur nuclear power plant.

The petition claims that such exports would be illegal because Indian pursuit of a nuclear weapons development program conflicts with the U.S. Nuclear Non-proliferation Act (NNPA). India is also said to be violating the NNPA by its long-term refusal to accept international safeguards inspection of Tarapur and other nuclear facilities.

The Reagan Administration has told India that it would take the steps required to make the parts available from U.S. suppliers if the Indians are unsuccessful in obtaining them abroad (*Science*, 5 August, p. 531). The Administration cites health and safety considerations as the reason for making the exception. The United States, in effect, has embargoed the export of nuclear fuel and reactor components to India since 1980 under the NNPA.

At issue are six applications to export reactor components worth over \$1 million to India for the Tarapur facility. These were filed in 1980 at India's behest by the General Electric Company, which built the two Tarapur reactors, and four other U.S. companies. Processing of the applications has been blocked by lack of the Executive Branch recommendation required by the NNPA.

Commenting on behalf of the petitioning organizations, Paul Leventhal of the Nuclear Control Institute said, "The Reagan Administration is caving in to Indian demands for reactor parts, ostensibly for health and safety reasons, but actually to remove what it considers an irritant in U.S.-India relations." He said that "prolonging unsafe operations" at Tarapur would "contribute to the continuing accident and other health safety risks." The petitioners, in effect, ask the NRC for a hearing on their arguments.

—**JOHN WALSH**

*Nuclear Control Institute, Federation of American Scientists, Union of Concerned Scientists, Greenpeace, Energy Research Foundation, and Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy (SANE).