

battle over the best way to manage basic research funding, there are pure political elements to the battle as well. As chairman of the subcommittee on health and the environment, Waxman's power over NIH is of a second order. His committee "authorizes" funds for the institutes which, in congressional terms, means it plays only an advisory role vis-à-vis the powerful "appropriations" committee which actually makes the final, real decisions about how much money Congress is going to spend on something. But once a specific item is mandated in authorizing legislation, some level of funding is bound to follow. Here is where Waxman is trying to draw his strength. "If we are going to stand on the sidelines and merely hope the Appropriations Committee will protect these biomedical research priorities we think are important, I submit we are abdicating our responsibility," Waxman declares.

Current predictions are that the NIH bill will come up soon after Congress reconvenes, at which time the Madigan-Broyhill substitute will officially be introduced. Although House aides talk of trying to work out various compromises between now and then, it is anybody's guess how much either side may be willing to yield.

Then, once a House bill is passed, the issues will have to be fought over in House-Senate conference with Senators whose enthusiasm for the Waxman approach is decidedly lacking. The Senate version of the NIH authorization bill, introduced by Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah), contains a provision for a new arthritis institute but is, in general, substantially less prescriptive and detailed than the Waxman bill.

Furthermore, the question of whether the Hatch bill will even come to a Senate vote is presently uncertain because of a "hold" that Bob Packwood (R-Ore.) has placed on it. Packwood opposes the legislative provisions to proscribe fetal research which are in the NIH bills. Unless some compromise is reached there, the bill may never make it out of committee.

It would not be the first time that Congress has simply been unable to resolve its differences over NIH. As Representative Madigan has noted, "... an NIH reauthorization bill has not been signed into law since December 1980 when the House and the other body reached a stalemate in conference and threw out both [House and Senate] bills, replacing them with a simple reauthorization" to keep NIH in operation without legislating a change in its way of doing business. It could happen yet again.—BARBARA J. CULLITON

Ruckelshaus Picks New EPA Team

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator William D. Ruckelshaus, in contrast to his predecessor, is selecting a team of senior officials with wide government experience. So far his choices for the agency's top posts have met with environmentalists' approval and have already bolstered morale within EPA.

While Anne McGill Burford brought in individuals who were Washington outsiders and were also mainly from industry, Ruckelshaus generally has chosen veterans of government, some of whom worked for Ruckelshaus when he was EPA administrator from 1970 to 1973.

Last week the Senate confirmed Alvin L. Alm as deputy administrator and Howard M. Messner as assistant administrator for administration. Alm, 46, a Democrat and now second in command at EPA, comes to the job from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He was EPA's chief of planning and management from 1973 to 1977. Later, he served as assistant secretary at the Department of Energy. Alm replaces John Hernandez, Jr., who plans to return to the University of New Mexico.

Messner served under Ruckelshaus in the early 1970's, and is taking on many of the same duties he had then, overseeing personnel and the budget. He was chairman of the government task force that led to EPA's creation. In recent years he has been a senior official at the Office of Management and Budget and, since February, he has been controller for the Energy Department. He succeeds John Horton, a wealthy entrepreneur from private industry.

Ruckelshaus had chosen others for top posts at the agency, but their nominations have not been formally submitted to the Senate by the White House as yet. Their confirmation is expected. Bernard D. Goldstein, chairman of the department of environmental and community medicine at Rutgers University, has been named to head EPA's office of research and development. He was a key witness for the federal government in 1977 when it pushed successfully for strict regulation of benzene.

Josephine S. Cooper is slated to become the assistant administrator for external affairs, which puts her in charge of liaison with Congress, the public, and the press. For the past 2 years, Cooper has been on the staff of Senate majority leader Howard Baker (R-Tenn.) and helped to draft amendments to hazardous waste legislation. Her proposed changes would have strengthened the regulations, but more moderately than those recommended by environmental groups such as the Sierra Club. Prior to her Senate job, Cooper served at EPA for 10 years in a variety of posts, eventually rising to a senior position in the office of research and development.

The job of assistant administrator for water is to be filled by John Ravan, a former EPA regional administrator under Ruckelshaus. Joseph Cannon is expected to remain assistant administrator for air, one of the few holdovers from the Burford administration. Cannon was an opponent of Burford's attempts to relax rules requiring lower lead levels in gasoline

—MARJORIE SUN

Toxicology Labs to Bar Financial Conflicts

The nation's most prestigious toxicology laboratories are getting ready to impose a new code of ethics and a program of quality control on themselves. "I don't know quite how it's all going to work yet," says Harold Brown, Jr., executive director of the National Association of Life Science Industries (NALSI), the labs' Washington lobby. But NALSI officials have decided already that an important part of the new code will be a requirement that laboratory officers have no financial stake in the products they are testing.

"This is going to be difficult for us," Brown says, "because most of our people are entrepreneurs who believe in the business and like to invest in it." But the industry recognizes that it has a problem and must avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest. "The question is, 'How much stock can you own?' Maybe it won't be zero," Brown thinks. Perhaps lab owners and operators will be asked to hold only "de minimis" shares in com-