

lab was then a topic of controversy and then-Governor Jerry Brown became an advocate of severing the university's connection with the labs. A Brown proposal that would have brought such a change, however, was rejected by the regents. There has been no real test of regents' attitudes on the issue since Brown was replaced by Governor George Deukmejian and UC president David Saxon by David Gardner, neither of whom have declared themselves on the matter.

The subject, however, was raised recently in an awkward way for the regents. In March the regents received a letter from the widow of physicist E. O. Lawrence requesting that Lawrence's name be removed from the name of Livermore lab, which is formally called the Ernest Orlando Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Mary B. Lawrence wrote that she feels that E. O. Lawrence's hopes that nuclear weapons would prove a successful deterrent to war and nuclear energy a source of cheap and plentiful power have been disappointed and that if he were alive now Lawrence would be distressed that his name was associated with the nuclear weapons laboratory. Evidently embarrassed, UC officials replied that the regents did not have jurisdiction over the lab name and suggested she take up the matter with the appropriate federal authorities.—**JOHN WALSH**

Texas A&M Gains a Nobel Prizewinner

Norman E. Borlaug, who won the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize, has decided to join the faculty of Texas A&M University. Texas A&M, which has been rapidly building up its research programs and trying to establish itself as a major research university, is jubilant. "His decision to continue his important research here represents a major step forward in our quest for preeminence and recognition as a world university," says A&M's president, Frank Vandiver.

Borlaug, 69, a plant geneticist whose work on high-yielding wheat varieties underpinned much of the so-called Green Revolution, will hold the title of Distinguished Professor of International Agriculture. He is presently

on the staff of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center near Mexico City.

Texas A&M has been assiduously courting another Nobel prizewinner, physicist Sheldon Glashow, so far without success.—**COLIN NORMAN**

Charles River Responds to Lawsuit on Impure Mice

Attorneys for Charles River Breeding Laboratories filed their answer on 19 August to the lawsuit brought by University of Wisconsin researcher Brenda Kahan (*Science*, 12 August, p. 625). She alleges that the company supplied her and her collaborators with genetically contaminated mice, thereby invalidating some of their research.

In its first detailed rebuttal, Charles River denies that it "at any time made any knowing false representation" to Kahan when it sold her BALB/c mice, and also denies "any discovery by [the company] of any genetic defect in BALB/c mice at any time material to the allegations."

The Charles River attorneys also say that in using the shipments of mice Kahan alleges were genetically contaminated, she "assumed the risk of any disparity in genetic makeup from those that she had been using" in previous experiments. The company attorneys also argue that the "importance of genetic purity of inbred animals is not essential to . . . research in many instances."

The Charles River attorneys say Kahan waived any rights to a claim against the company when she requested more of the mice "after having become aware of the alleged contamination." Thus, that and her "failure to promptly notify" the company are being cited by the attorneys as reasons to deny her claim for damages. Furthermore, they say, there was no legal contract between the company and Kahan, but between it and the University of Wisconsin, where she works. Damages, "if recoverable at all," would go to the university, not to Kahan, they argue. The university intends to file a suit of its own, similar to Kahan's, which already is raising some novel legal issues.

—**JEFFREY L. FOX**

French Embassy Gets Social Science Attaché

The French Embassy, which has an unusually large scientific staff, has become the first to appoint a social science attaché—Laurence Ratier-Coutrot, a sociologist from the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique.

Ratier-Coutrot is currently finding her way around the American social science landscape and notes the scale of things are rather different here—the American Sociological Association, for example, has 14,000 members, compared with 400 in its French counterpart.

Among her plans is to organize meetings between French and American scholars to compare the two nations' approaches to equivalent subjects. Ratier-Coutrot says she hasn't identified any major intellectual differences between France and the United States, but is looking for a "big intellectual event" comparable to the birth of policy research here a decade ago.—**CONSTANCE HOLDEN**

IOM Launches Study of NIH

The Institute of Medicine has launched a study of the structure of the National Institutes of Health which NIH officials hope will resolve the question of whether more disease-oriented institutes should be added. IOM panels will review organizational changes at NIH during the past 15 years, its current structure, and alternative patterns of research funding. The IOM will hold an open hearing in Washington on 26 and 27 September. The committee is headed by James D. Ebert, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Its members are: Steven Beering, Purdue University; Baruj Benacerraf, Harvard; William Bevan, the MacArthur Foundation; Stanley Cohen, Vanderbilt University; Maclyn McCarty, Rockefeller University; Thomas D. Morris, Washington, D.C.; George E. Pake, Xerox; Don K. Price, Harvard; David Saxon, M.I.T. Corporation; Margery W. Shaw, Health Law Institute, Houston; Howard E. Simmons, DuPont; Samuel O. Thier, Yale; Joseph F. Volker, University of Alabama, Birmingham; and Washington attorney Adam Yarmolinsky.—**BARBARA J. CULLITON**