

UC's position in the academic marketplace has been emphasized and Gardner and others had made improvement of faculty salaries a top priority.

The proposed 13 percent salary increase for faculty would be paid in installments of 4 percent on 1 June and 9 percent on 1 January 1985. University sources say that the raise will restore UC salaries to the average levels projected for eight peer institutions on which the salary comparisons were based. These included Harvard and Stanford among the private universities and Wisconsin and the State University of New York among the public.

The \$241-million budget increase earmarks some \$44 million for improvements to include funds for instructional equipment and computers and a \$2.3-million boost in state funds for research. In addition to the \$241-million boost in operating funds, the governor asked for \$155.8 million for the university's building program. Some \$42.4 million would be made available in the current year.

Elected in 1982, Deukmejian took office with the state deficit at \$1.5 billion and the California economy reeling. As a candidate he had pledged not to raise taxes and as governor has kept a tight rein on spending. His liberal treatment of higher education is not repeated in other sectors of the budget and he has been at odds with Democrats in the legislature about budget policy. Sources in the legislature, however, say that his plans for university funding are regarded favorably by many Democrats and should have bipartisan support.—**JOHN WALSH**

Bamboo Loss Endangers Giant Pandas in China

The peculiar life cycles of mountainous stands of bamboo in the People's Republic of China is threatening the survival of roughly one quarter of the estimated 1000 giant pandas living there. Bamboo, the panda's primary food source, is currently dying off throughout the animal's habitat. So far only two pandas are known to have died of starvation, but the height of the crisis is not expected until later this

year and will not correct itself naturally for the next 3 to 5 years, says George Schaller, director of the animal research and conservation center of the New York Zoological Society and leader of World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Project Panda. Schaller recently visited the United States briefly before returning to China.

WWF and China formulated a joint agreement 5 years ago to protect China's wildlife, with the panda project being the first specific undertaking. The pandas' problems arise because of two main forces. The first is the expansion of the Chinese human pop-



ulation into the pandas' shrinking habitat, particularly the encroachment of farms that have reduced native stands of bamboo, which is virtually the sole source of food for the animals. The second has to do with much of the remaining bamboo synchronously entering the regenerative phase of its 40- to 50-year life cycle. That bamboo is beginning to flower, form seeds, and then die off—to be replaced by seedlings that will take several years to grow enough to support pandas.

Not much can be done to replenish the bamboo supplies in the short run. However, the Chinese government is taking several measures to help the animals. Emergency holding stations to rehabilitate starving animals are being established; county rescue teams will roam the outback to locate animals in trouble and pack them out in portable cages, if necessary; and a massive propaganda campaign for volunteers to contribute funds or report the whereabouts of starving pandas is being mounted. The government also has arranged for 1500 people to move from one area designated

a preserve, whose slopes will be planted over with bamboo and become a permanent refuge for the giant panda.—**JEFFREY L. FOX**

New Entry Among Patrons of Medical Research

Although not yet off and running, a new foundation created last year is expected to be among the major private sources of funding for biomedical research. The new foundation, the Lucille P. Markey Charitable Trust, is named for its founder, who established it and defined its purposes in her will. Mrs. Markey, who died in 1982, oversaw the highly successful Calumet thoroughbred breeding and racing stables in Kentucky after the death in 1950 of her husband, Warren Wright, the stables' founder.

By concentrating on basic medical research, the new foundation will move into a sector from which private foundations largely withdrew when federal funding of biomedical research increased in the decades after World War II. The Markey trust will also depart from common foundation practice by disbursing its assets over 15 years, a strategy that should give it substantial impact in its field.

No estimate of the total worth of assets destined for the trust can be made until it receives the residue of the Markey estate, which is still being settled. Sources familiar with the situation, however, say that the trust will take its place among major private foundations with assets in the low hundreds of millions.

The program for the foundation is still in the early formative stage. The trustees announced in November the appointment as medical director of Robert J. Glaser, a former dean of the Stanford medical school who retired from the presidency of the Kaiser Family Foundation when he took the new post. Glaser will assume primary responsibility for designing the research program to achieve objectives set in the Markey will. Trust officials say it will be a year or more before funding and program matters are settled and research proposals can be considered. After that, the foundation is expected to be fast out of the gate.—**JOHN WALSH**