worth about $500,000, that are expected to be handed over to NBS in a separate transaction. NBS has also ordered some 100-micrometer spheres that will be produced on future flights.

—THOMAS H. MAUGH II

Translating Japanese Technology into U.S. Terms

The transfer of technology and scientific information between Japan and the United States has been a lopsided transaction. Japan is famous for adopting American technology and selling it back in the form of products that have often swept U.S. markets. The failure of American industry to reciprocate by tapping the increasing store of Japanese technology and research results recently prompted the House Science and Technology Committee to insert a $750,000 item in the National Bureau of Standards authorization bill to fund activities to increase the availability of Japanese science and engineering literature to U.S. scientists and engineers.

The amendment resulted from recent hearings, organized by Science subcommittee chairman Representative Doug Walgren (D–Pa.). Several of those giving testimony ascribed U.S. lack of initiative in garnering Japanese ideas and inventions from the technical literature to the ingrained American habit of being No. 1 as a source of science and technology. The special problems of monitoring Japanese science and technology, however, were summarized succinctly by D. Eleanor Westney, acting director of the MIT–Japan Science and Technology Program. A critical issue is language. Few Americans are proficient in Japanese and fewer still "are also experts in a scientific or technical field, able to assess the significance of what they read."

A second major issue is "the imbalance between Japan and the United States for technical scanning." Practically since Commodore Perry landed, the Japanese have cultivated the skills of learning about Western science and technology. As several of the witnesses noted, representatives of U.S. companies in Japan are much less adept at technical scanning than their Japanese counterparts in the United States.

Another difficulty for Americans, said Westney, is that "Japanese scientific and technical information is less systematized and readily accessible than is the case in the United States." There are fewer refereed journals with national drawing power and Japanese scientists and engineers depend heavily on informal contacts to learn of new developments. Americans have difficulty in gaining access to these networks.

The amendment would revive a modest initiative for the scanning and translation of foreign technical literature launched when there was serious concern about the unavailability of Russian technical literature in the United States. Both the concern and funding dwindled over the years.

The new program is aimed at increasing the accessibility of the Japanese literature through "monitoring, screening, translation, abstracting, indexing, dissemination, awareness and marketing" and is to be administered by the Commerce Department's National Technical Information Service. Otherwise untouched are the linguistic shortfall and the other deficiencies that contribute to U.S. technological myopia.—JOHN WALSH

New Director Named for Kitt Peak

Sidney C. Wolff, acting director of the University of Hawaii's Institute for Astronomy, president-elect of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, and a councilor of the American Astronomical Society, has been named as the new director of Kitt Peak National Observatory; she thus becomes the first woman to head a major astronomical observatory in the United States.

By coincidence—she was picked by an independent search committee—Wolff will once again be working for her previous boss, John T. Jefferies. Jefferies was the founding director of Hawaii's Institute for Astronomy (*Science*, 27 November 1981, p. 1010) and served in that position until he left last year to head the National Optical Astronomy Observatories, a new organization of which Kitt Peak is a part.

Wolff plans to arrive at Kitt Peak's Tucson, Arizona, headquarters in early September. The current director, Geoffrey Burbidge, will remain at Kitt Peak as a member of the staff.

—M. MITCHELL WALDROP

Illmensee Faces Funding Cutoff

The Swiss national science foundation has withdrawn its financial support for Karl Illmensee, the University of Geneva embryologist who was accused last year of manipulating his experimental protocols. The foundation's action was taken largely on the basis of a report by an international commission of inquiry that found no compelling evidence that Illmensee committed fraud, but discovered so many "corrections, errors and discrepancies" in his records that it deemed the series of experiments in question "scientifically worthless" (*Science*, 2 March, p. 913).

The U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) is also considering whether or not to resume funding Illmensee's work. Illmensee's NIH grant was up for renewal last year, but the allegations arose before a decision was made and the application was put on hold. The commission of inquiry looked into Illmensee's application for renewal of his grant and found inconsistencies in the reporting of his data that "raised the possibility that the original NIH application contains an element of invention." NIH officials are studying the commission's report and are expected to come to a decision on Illmensee's grant in the next few weeks.

Loss of financial support could make it difficult for Illmensee to carry out the commission's recommendation that he repeat the challenged experiments. It urged that they be repeated "as soon as possible as a collaborative project with full scientific rigor." The commission also noted that an earlier set of experiments, conducted by Illmensee in collaboration with Peter Hoppe of the Jackson Laboratory, has not yet been verified and urged that they be repeated as well.—COLIN NORMAN