

The turn of events has aroused considerable dismay and protests from scientists here and abroad. Goldfarb's son Alex, who teaches at Columbia University, got the news on 17 April and promptly set to work on a cable to the Soviet Academy of Sciences, which has been signed by 10 Nobel Prize-winning biologists from the United States and Europe. The cable alluded to "grave consequences" to scientific cooperation, and said "we urge you to consider the implications of similar restraints" on the flow of scientific materials to the U.S.S.R.

Alex Goldfarb says he suspects the KGB may have taken action as a muscle-flexing exercise to "strike back" at the Academy for its prominent role in arranging Goldfarb's departure (*Science*, 27 April, p. 371). He sees a hopeful sign in the fact that when his father called the visa office after the raid, he was told the visa was suspended until further notice but that it was still valid.

Goldfarb says pressure on the Soviet Academy could well bear fruit since several members, including president Anatoly Alexandrov and vice president Yuri Ovchinnikov, are on the Central Committee.—**CONSTANCE HOLDEN**

Court Settles Control of Hughes Institute

After 6 years of intense legal battling, control over the Howard Hughes Medical Institute has been settled. As a result, the institute stands to gain \$2 billion to \$4 billion in liquid assets, a fortune that could make it one of the biggest sources of medical research funds outside the federal government. The money would come from the sale of the institute's major asset, Hughes Aircraft Company, one of the nation's largest aerospace and military contractors. The amount of funds available for research will also hinge on the outcome of a dispute between the institute and the Internal Revenue Service.

On 26 April, a Delaware court diluted the power of F. William Gay, who had claimed himself sole trustee of the institute, and named seven additional trustees. The Delaware attorney general successfully challenged

Gay's contention, arguing that Howard Hughes had died without naming a trustee to succeed him.

To date, Hughes Institute has portioned out a sizable amount of money for biomedical research, but it is a pittance compared to the money that could become available. Hughes Aircraft sales last year totaled \$4.9 billion. If the new board decides the company should be sold and the money is reinvested in diversified assets, the institute could easily earn \$300 million annually, Delaware deputy attorney general Bartholomew Dalton estimates. In comparison, the annual budget of the National Institutes of Health is \$4.5 billion.

A decision by the board to change the institute's tax status could also add to the pool of money available for research. The Internal Revenue Service has argued that the institute should be designated a nonprofit foundation, which requires it to spend at least 5 percent of its assets on research. Gay has insisted that the institute is not subject to this tax category because it does not issue grants.

There is much speculation that Hughes Aircraft will probably be sold. Company chairman Allen Puckett has remarked that it is already preparing for divestiture. Gay, however, has said the sale of the company has never been seriously considered.

But Gay, who rose to power after serving as Hughes's chauffeur, is now only one voice in nine. He and seven other trustees were named after agreement was reached between the opposing parties in the lawsuit, the Delaware attorney general, and the institute. Under a formula set down in January by Delaware Chancellor Grover Brown, each party chose four nominees. A ninth trustee is to be chosen by the new board.

The trustees include William Lummis, who is a cousin of Hughes, the administrator of most of the Hughes estate, and Gay's chief critic in the way he managed the institute. The others are leaders in business, academia, and medical research. The institute's nominees, besides Gay, are Donald S. Fredrickson, former National Institutes of Health director; George W. Thorne, institute president and professor emeritus at Harvard Medical School; and Irving Shapiro, former chairman of E. I. duPont de Nemours and Company. The attorney general's

office actively sought out leaders among women and minorities to balance the composition of the board and nominated, in addition to Lummis, Helen Copley, president of Copley Industries, which owns the two major papers in San Diego and several other newspapers around the country; Hanna Gray, University of Chicago president; and James Gilliam, a black business leader who is a senior vice president and general counsel for Beneficial Corporation, a financial services company based in Wilmington, Delaware. The trustees are appointed to serve for life.

—**MARJORIE SUN**

Comings and Goings

National Science Foundation director Edward A. Knapp has named **Bassam Z. Shakhshiri** of the University of Wisconsin-Madison to be NSF assistant director for science and engineering education. Shakhshiri, a professor of chemistry and director of the Institute for Chemical Education at Madison, will head the foundation's reconstituted education program. Historically, the NSF education directorate was headed by one of four presidentially appointed assistant directors requiring Senate confirmation. NSF sources say that because the education program is in the throes of a rebuilding effort and the White House appointments process has been slow in churning out nominees, Knapp, after touching base with White House staff, NSF's congressional patrons, and the National Science Board, decided to add education to the three directorates currently headed by assistant directors who are not presidential appointees.

Former Defense Secretary **Harold Brown** is the new head of the Foreign Policy Institute, which is part of the Johns Hopkins School of International Studies in Washington. The institute is responsible for five of the graduate school's academic programs, publishes a journal, and sponsors conferences on foreign policy subjects. Pentagon chief during the Carter Administration and a former president of California Institute of Technology, Brown has been professor of national security studies at Hopkins since 1981.

—**JOHN WALSH**