

EPA's actions represent a victory for the Natural Resources Defense Council. Jacqueline Warren, the lead attorney on the case for the council, said she was pleased with the decision but added that "we're now back to square one."—**MARJORIE SUN**

## Suits Over Genetically Impure Mice Settled

Two closely related lawsuits, one brought by University of Wisconsin cancer researcher Brenda C. Kahan and the other by the university against Charles River Breeding Laboratories, have been settled. Both suits alleged that the company supplied Kahan and her colleagues with genetically contaminated mice and failed to notify them properly of the problem, causing losses in research effort and money (*Science*, 12 August 1983, p. 625). Kahan's action also alleged that her career was set back because of the mishap.

The settlement between the university and the company establishes a \$40,000 research fund, two-thirds of which is to support Kahan's research and the remainder to support zoological research at the university. Terms of the agreement between Kahan and the company have not been disclosed.—**JEFFREY L. FOX**

## France Turns to Banks for Research Funding

*Paris.* In a move designed to soften the impact of recent cuts in public spending on scientific research, the French government announced last week that two major agencies—the Atomic Energy Commission and the National Center for Space Studies—will be allowed to borrow \$30 million from the country's nationalized banks, and redistribute about 80 percent of it to other government research agencies.

The government's decision follows sharp criticism from within the scientific community of an announcement at the end of March that the research budget will be reduced by over \$200 million as part of a broader package of

spending cuts designed to help reduce France's growing budget deficit. Such a move would have virtually eliminated the 8 percent real increase in the civilian research budget which the government had previously announced for the current year.

The major beneficiary will be the National Center for Scientific Research, the main source of funds for basic research in France, which had previously faced a cut of \$25 million in its budget and the prospect of having to reduce the running costs of some of its programs by 25 percent. It will now get back almost half this figure through the loan scheme.

The National Institute for Health and Medical Research will similarly benefit from \$3 million from the loan, and a slightly higher figure will go to the National Center for Oceanic Research. The Atomic Energy Commission will be permitted to keep almost \$4 million for its own research programs, and the space agency, the lead agency in France's ambitious plans for developing a new generation of Ariane launchers, will keep \$2.4 million.—**DAVID DICKSON**

## Mary Lasker Enshrined Eponymously at NIH

With impressive dispatch, Congress has passed legislation to honor Mary Woodard Lasker—a philanthropist whose name has become synonymous with biomedical health and education concerns—by naming a center for her at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland. The bill passed both houses so rapidly that several members of Congress were said to be chagrined at missing an opportunity to voice their praise for Lasker. President Reagan is expected to approve the measure soon.

The center will be situated on land virtually surrounded by the NIH campus that had belonged to the Catholic Order of the Visitation, which was represented by a dwindling group of nuns who occupied a convent on the grounds. A sale of the land was proposed and, with a special legislative appropriation, a deal consummated with NIH in November 1983.

Plans for the center are still indefi-

nite. However, negotiations are under way with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute over the possibility of converting the convent building and establishing a center to train medical students interested in spending a year in research at NIH.—**JEFFREY L. FOX**

## Comings and Goings

An Administration champion of deregulation, **Christopher C. DeMuth**, has announced plans to resign from the Office of Management and Budget. DeMuth, who has been administrator for information and regulatory affairs, took a strong interest in the affairs of the Environmental Protection Agency and more recently caused a stir when he advised a cabinet council to examine the federal government's role in regulating biotechnology products. According to an agency press release, DeMuth intends to "enter private business" and also finish writing a book on government regulation. DeMuth said in a prepared statement that he is resigning to work for President Reagan's reelection. He is expected to step down in July and will be replaced by **Douglas H. Ginsburg**, who has a similar academic background. Both men were classmates at the University of Chicago Law School and have been members of the Harvard faculty. Ginsburg is currently deputy assistant attorney general of the Justice Department's antitrust division.

The National Institutes of Health will be losing two directors, but gaining one this summer. In July, **Richard M. Krause**, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for 7 years, will become dean of Emory University's medical school and **Lester B. Salans**, head of the National Institute of Arthritis, Diabetes, and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for 2 years, will become dean of Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and senior vice president of the medical center. A University of Missouri professor, **Donald Lindberg**, has been selected to be director of the National Library of Medicine, a post that has been vacant since September. Lindberg, whose nomination must still clear White House channels, is a physician and a specialist in computer applications for information services.—**MARJORIE SUN**