

there is "a perception of a security problem, we decided to do some things that would ease that perception." For example, the university agreed to keep the reactor shut down during the Olympic Games in order to limit the consequences of a terrorist attack. The litigation over relicensing has cost between \$150,000 and \$250,000—the price of "harassment," in Young's view.

According to UCLA's plan, the reactor will be dismantled at a cost of \$300,000 to \$1 million over the next 5 years.—**ELIOT MARSHALL**

## GAO Dismisses Bank Street Protest

The General Accounting Office (GAO), after a lengthy review, has denied a protest by Bank Street College of Education, which claimed that the National Institute of Education (NIE) improperly awarded a contract for a new educational technology center to Harvard University (*Science*, 27 January, p. 378).

The GAO dismissed all of Bank Street's complaints. Chief among them was that NIE did not give Bank Street sufficient information about cost estimates during the competitive bidding process. Bank Street also said that NIE director Manuel Justiz improperly disregarded the recommendation of the project review board, but GAO responded that the director has the ultimate contracting authority and acted legally.

Bank Street issued a statement on the decision criticizing the "enormous discretion" permitted in the NIE review process, and suggesting that "both the NIE decision-making process and the GAO order . . . are a denial of fundamental concepts of due process." The college is "reviewing its options for further action."

—**CONSTANCE HOLDEN**

## French Take Steps for European Space Station

*Paris.* The French government announced on 15 June that it is inviting other European nations to subscribe

to an expanded program of collaborative space research and development aimed at making Europe fully competitive with the United States in space technology by the beginning of the next century.

The two central components in the French proposal, which if fully accepted would result in a 50 percent increase in the European space budget over the next 10 years, are the development of a new cryogenic motor, known as HM-60, and preliminary studies of a more powerful version of the Ariane launcher, whose technical promise was amply filled by its first fully commercial launch last month.

The current version of Ariane is capable of putting into geosynchronous orbit payloads up to 4.5 tonnes. The new version, called Ariane V, would be able to increase this to 15 to 20 tonnes, sufficient to launch a small reusable space vehicle known as Hermes.

France is proposing that it provide 55 percent of the estimated \$500 million development cost of the engine and of the \$1.4 billion cost of Ariane V, and is hoping to persuade other European countries to pick up the remainder through the European Space Agency (ESA).

The German government is thought to have already agreed in principle to contribute a further 25 percent of the overall engine and launcher costs. However, this decision will rest on its ability to convince other ESA members to support European participation in the space program currently being planned by the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

French Minister of Industry and Research, Laurent Fabius, said that he considered these to be the first steps toward the eventual construction of a European space station.

The French will also support a radar observation satellite, known as ERS-1, supported by other ESA members. This would also be funded through the European agency.

The French proposal for broad government funding of the new launcher, which is predicted to reduce the cost of commercial satellite launches by 30 to 40 percent, comes a week after a rival U.S. company, Transpace Carriers, Inc., had accused European governments of providing unfair subsidies to its space industry. In particular,

Transpace has complained to President Ronald Reagan of the fact that ESA has offered free launch facilities to Arianespace, the company which was set up to exploit the commercial use of Ariane, as well as the current practice—due to expire in 1987—under which foreign companies can be offered satellite launches at what is claimed to be less than cost.

Transpace's complaints are currently being studied by the Office of U.S. Trade Representatives in Washington, although they are not being taken too seriously in Europe in view of major government subsidies provided to the U.S. space program through NASA in the past.

—**DAVID DICKSON**

## New Chief for OSHA

A Texas tax lawyer is expected to be named chief of the federal agency that regulates worker safety and health. Robert A. Rowland, 52, is expected to be nominated to head the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Like his predecessor, Thorne Auchter, a Florida contractor, Rowland helped manage Reagan's 1980 campaign at the state level. (Auchter resigned in March to join a Kansas construction company.)

Rowland came to Washington in 1981 from Austin after the Administration appointed him chairman of a federal commission that adjudicates disputes between OSHA and companies that contest agency penalties for violations. Rowland's track record at the commission indicates that he is very conservative and, according to Margaret Seminario of the AFL-CIO, has repeatedly ruled in favor of industry.

Bert Cottine, a lawyer who was appointed to the commission by former President Jimmy Carter and served 2 years under Rowland's chairmanship, says that Rowland, although "extremely personable," is "unfamiliar with medical and scientific issues of occupational safety and health outside of his limited experience at the commission."

Rowland's nomination, which has not been officially announced, is subject to Senate confirmation.

—**MARJORIE SUN**