

planning, and this has held up approval of the operating license. In addition, there has been a new move to deny Shoreham's start-up low-power license, based on the fact that its emergency electric power generators have a bad record of performance. Gilinsky played a key role in highlighting the problem.

In March, Palladino sought to expedite proceedings on Shoreham, meeting privately with the administrative judge handling the case and arranging with the judge to have a special new review group created. A tight schedule was set out. Suffolk County objected. Gilinsky wrote what one congressional staffer called an "extraordinary" letter to Congress, "inviting us to come in and pull down the NRC's pants in public." Representative Edward Markey (D-Mass.), chairman of the Interior Committee's oversight and investigations subcommittee, did just that. He asked for NRC internal documents and transcripts on the Shoreham case. After first refusing to turn them over, Palladino complied.

The meeting transcripts and NRC memos revealed that Gilinsky and Asselstine strongly disagreed with Palladino's procedural approach, which they felt went against the NRC's ex parte rule that forbids commissioners from talking privately to the staff about matters under adjudication. Citing this documentation, Suffolk County has now demanded that Palladino recuse himself, arguing that he showed a bias in favor of the utility. Asselstine strengthened the county's case by testifying on Capitol Hill that a neutral observer might well draw the conclusion that Palladino has shown bias. The Shoreham issue and the request for recusal are still pending and knotted in a rat's nest of intertwined petitions, investigations, economic threats, and politics.

With Admiral Zech newly installed on the commission and Gilinsky out, the White House hopes that these ructions will die down. Once again, there are even expectations that the NRC will change its ways and become a smooth-running processor of license applications. It might. For example, in a post-Gilinsky action on 26 July, the NRC voted soundly (4 to 1) to reverse the implications of a decision taken in May that would have narrowed the NRC staff's discretion to grant exemptions from safety rules. The effect is to signal that the staff may grant exemptions, even if doing so cannot be said to keep the plant "as safe as" it would have been otherwise. Asselstine was the lone dissenter.

Gilinsky's challenges to the industry

Koshland Named *Science* Editor



Daniel E. Koshland, Jr., has been selected by the AAAS Board of Directors to serve as editor of *Science*. A professor of biochemistry at the University of California at Berkeley, Koshland will assume editorial responsibilities on 1 January 1985, succeeding Philip H. Abelson, who has been editor since 1962. Koshland is chairman of the editorial board of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, a post he will relinquish before assuming the editorship of *Science*, and has served on the editorial boards of *Accounts of Chemical Research*, the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, the *Journal of Molecular Biology*, and *Science*. He will continue his research at the University of California, devoting about half his time to *Science* and half to research and university duties. Abelson will continue his affiliation with the AAAS as science adviser to the association.

were controversial, but he claimed they were also good for the long-term survival of nuclear power. He argued that an active NRC, dedicated to ferreting out problems, would be more helpful than a passive agency eager to rush plants to approval. An alert agency could help executives find and correct troubles early on, forestalling the kind of disaster that will cost the Three Mile Island utility \$1 billion to clean up. Gilinsky put this idea into practice by hiring experienced reactor operators as staff advisers, conducting his own investigations, and chasing mistakes to their source. He urged utility managers to follow his example.

At times his investigations duplicated—Gilinsky would say, enhanced—the work of the cumbersome NRC staff. They disturbed the industry for they put individual companies on the spot and seemed to create new problems. An example is the new alarm that began this spring over Shoreham's diesel generators for emergency power.

Gilinsky says that his assistant discovered a serious equipment flaw that had been missed by all the monitoring systems used since Three Mile Island because none of them check for quality by brand name. A particular make of diesel, Transamerica DeLaval Inc., appears to have had an unacceptably high rate of failure at Shoreham, which would rely on these diesels for power during a blackout. Nuclear plants are critically

dependent on electricity to run control systems. Two other plants—Grand Gulf in Mississippi and Catawba in South Carolina—depend on this brand of diesel as well. This problem has now been added to the NRC's crowded agenda.

Plant builders tend to blame their problems on the NRC system, which in their view encourages critics to litigate small flaws in hardware and procedure. Some industry people saw Gilinsky as an ally of the professional fault-finders. The weakness of such complaints is that the construction problems have not been small nor isolated, and some of the procedural errors have been colossal.

Consider the case of the Grand Gulf plant, owned by the Mississippi Power and Light Company. After hastily approving a low-power license in 1982 for this huge system (1250 megawatts), the NRC discovered it had licensed a "non-existent reactor," in the words of a critic. The technical specifications on which the license was granted were those of another, older reactor. The utility submitted them as a substitute for the real specifications, which it did not have in hand. Thus, the license description was false, differing from the actual plant in hundreds of details. As a result, the utility has been going through a costly 2-year patch-up program to bring its reactor and license into agreement. The company also hired new managers. The irony is that there were no antinuclear "inter-