

aerospace industry and academia. With respect to the "Pentagon officials," they were two high-ranking, retired military officers, one of whom spent several years on assignment to NASA. My career has been primarily in academic areas rather than defense.

Smith writes that the panel claimed "a meaningful comparison of costs [of the three candidate vehicles] was impossible in the 5-month study period." Actually, the primary reason for not including a cost analysis, as noted in the panel's report and in Smith's final paragraph, was that a formal procurement action for a backup expendable launch vehicle was initiated by the Air Force shortly after this study was commissioned, thus preventing the panel from having access to detailed, accurate cost information from the bidders about the competing designs.

ROBERT R. FOSSUM

*Panel to Assess Candidate Expendable Launch Vehicles for Large Payloads, Committee on NASA Scientific and Technological Program Reviews, National Research Council, Washington, D.C. 20418, and School of Engineering, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas 75222*

Besides Fossum, a former director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the panel included Ivan Getting, a former president of the Aerospace Corporation, a major Air Force missile contractor; Richard Henry, a former commander of the Air Force Space Division; Thomas Morgan, a former commander of the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Organization; Gordon Reiter, a program manager for space and communications at Hughes Aircraft, which builds satellites for the Air Force; Edgar Cortright, a retired president of Lockheed, another Air Force contractor; and three others.

—R. JEFFREY SMITH

## Nuclear Weapons Policies

We have recently surveyed 100 major American scientific associations concerning their policies on nuclear weapons. Of the 48 respondents 11 have charters that preclude their making editorial statements on such issues. Of the remaining 37 responding organizations, eight have adopted statements urging both the United States and the U.S.S.R. to halt, or substantially limit, the testing,

production, and deployment of nuclear weapons. These eight organizations are the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the American Physical Society, the American Physiological Society, the American Psychological Association, the American Society for Cell Biology, the Association of American Geographers, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, and the Natural Resources Defense Council. These organizations represent nearly a quarter of a million American scientists. Similar editorial statements are being considered by the Ecological Society of America and other scientific associations. We did not survey engineering and medical associations or scientific associations with fewer than 1000 members, several of which have adopted similar statements. It is becoming clear that a large proportion of America's scientists disagree with this nation's nuclear weapons policy. We therefore urge the current Administration to seriously consider the recommendations of these scientific groups with respect to nuclear armaments policy.

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## John Shaw Billings

This year marks the 100th anniversary of one of the world's great collections of scientific instruments, the Billings Microscope Collection at the Armed Forces Medical Museum in Washington, D.C. In 1884, John Shaw Billings began obtaining microscopes to show future generations how the microscope came to be an implement of science. The collection contains about 800 microscopes and accessories, including microtomes and illuminators, dating from the early 17th century to the development of electron optics. Portions of the collection are to be shown at the IBM Gallery in Manhattan this winter and in other parts of the country over the next 2 years.

We are seeking information concerning Billings and his scientific endeavors. Billings, who was director of the Surgeon General's Library early in the Civil War, established or nurtured the scions that became the Armed Forces Medical Museum, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, and the National Library of Medicine, as well as the records that led to the creation of the Veterans Adminis-

tration. In addition to shaping the world's medical literature, Billings had keen scientific interests, and some of his prolific and enormous correspondence dealt with experimental medicine. Information or documents concerning John Shaw Billings or the microscope collection would be welcome and acknowledged by the National Library of Medicine and the Armed Forces Medical Museum.

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## Lake Baikal: U.S.-Soviet Cooperation

We have recently returned from a collecting expedition to Lake Baikal conducted jointly with the Limnological Institute, Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. While concern about possible pollution of the lake has received attention in the West (1), our work indicates that the endemic benthic fishes show no evidence of decline. In 14 hours of bottom trawling in the middle and southern basins, we collected 23 of the 30 species of endemic sculpins. Protection of the lake continues to be strongly advocated by some within the U.S.S.R. (2), and plans for conservation and expanded biological research have been developed. The fauna of the lake is unique and presents a variety of research opportunities, particularly in evolutionary biology. Given the hospitality we experienced, it is our impression that future collaborative studies with U.S. scientists are viewed favorably (3).

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## References and Notes

1. P. R. Pryde, *Science* **220**, 274 (1983).
2. G. I. Galazy, paper presented at the Soviet-American Meeting on the Social-Geographical Aspects of Environmental Change, Irkutsk (1983).
3. Our fieldwork was supported by the National Geographic Society.