

*Escherichia coli* auxotrophs from Yanofsky's laboratory.

Goldfarb's son Alexander, who teaches at Columbia University, says the moratorium idea—first put forth by Nobel laureate Joshua Lederberg—is a controversial one. But he believes this suspension of scientific courtesy could significantly hamper the work of Russian microbiologists and therefore make an impression on Soviet authorities.—**CONSTANCE HOLDEN**

## VA Re-reconsiders Twin Study

The House Veterans Affairs Committee has persuaded the Veterans Administration to delay action on a twin study of Vietnam veterans pending a review by the Office of Technology Assessment. The \$9-million project at the St. Louis VA Medical Center was originally designed as another Agent Orange study, but its primary contribution was expected to be valuable information on the long-term psychological effects of Vietnam service (*Science*, 2 November 1984, p. 521). Although the plan had been thoroughly vetted, the VA re-reviewed it last summer and decided it was of "questionable scientific worth." A spokesman for the veterans committee chairman, G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery (D-Miss.) told the *Washington Post* he wanted to know "why the VA suddenly wants to end a study that it has claimed for 2 years is of some importance."—**CONSTANCE HOLDEN**

## Psychologist's Suit Dismissed

Psychologist David Campbell, junior developer of the Strong-Campbell vocational interest inventory, has lost his bid to prevent the test's owner, Stanford University, from transferring its management to a private firm, Consulting Psychologists Press, Inc.

Campbell gave up his scientific rights over the inventory in 1974 but he claimed in a lawsuit that his rights under a 1966 contract were violated because Stanford did not ask his consent for the transfer.

But a California district court judge dismissed the suit, saying Stanford's action did not depart from "established practice" as Campbell alleged, and that Stanford did not transfer its "interest" in the inventory since it still owns the copyrights.

The judge, however, expressed sympathy with Campbell's concerns about a nonacademic entity taking over development of the inventory. "This outcome might have been different if [the] plaintiff . . . alleged a breach of . . . good faith and fair dealing," he wrote.—**CONSTANCE HOLDEN**

## Three Sites Short-Listed for Nuclear Waste Dump

The Department of Energy has tentatively short-listed three sites as prime candidates for a permanent nuclear waste repository. They are Deaf Smith County in the Texas panhandle, Yucca Mountain in southwestern Nevada close to the nuclear test site, and the Hanford nuclear reservation near Richland in Washington. Sites in Utah and Mississippi have been selected as possible backups.

The department is expected to make the shortlist final later this year, after people in the affected areas have had a chance to review vast amounts of environmental data collected from a preliminary analysis of the sites.

The announcement of the shortlist is just one step in a long process aimed at getting a repository into operation by 1998. Once the shortlist is finalized, an exhaustive geological survey will be conducted at each site, including sinking test shafts as deep as 4000 feet. Between \$500 million and \$1 billion will be spent on each survey.

The department hopes to select one of the three sites for the repository in 1990. At that point the lucky (or unlucky) state can exercise a veto, which could only be overridden by a vote of Congress.

The political uncertainties in the selection process are at least as formidable as the geological uncertainties. Energy Secretary Donald P. Hodel acknowledged last week that "right now, we would have to say none of the states is supportive."

—**COLIN NORMAN**

## AID Turns Down IPPF

In keeping with the Administration's new international antiabortion policy, the Agency for International Development (AID) has turned down a request for \$17 million by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

The action has dismayed population groups. "Everyone was expecting a compromise," says an official of the Population Crisis Committee.

The IPPF, which received \$13 million—25 percent of its budget—from AID for 1984, had reportedly been trying to get word about its prospects for 1985 since September. Finally this month AID administrator Peter McPherson notified IPPF that no money would be forthcoming.

The Administration's policy statement indicated that money withheld from groups that "promote" abortion could be delivered to alternative family planning organizations, but AID has given no indication of what these organizations might be.

—**CONSTANCE HOLDEN**

## Comings and Goings

**Spurgeon M. Keeny, Jr.**, a national security expert who is presently a scholar in residence at the National Academy of Sciences, has been appointed executive director of the Arms Control Association, a nonprofit educational group in Washington. Previously, Keeny has been an Air Force intelligence officer, a staff member of the National Security Council, an executive at the Mitre Corporation, and a deputy director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. He replaces William Kincade, who will continue as a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington.

**Walter Gilbert** has resigned as chairman and chief executive officer of Biogen. A Nobel prizewinner, Gilbert surprised many colleagues when he left Harvard University 3 years ago to run the company full time. No official reason was given for his departure. Gilbert, who went sailing in Polynesia after submitting his resignation, could not be reached for comment.