

of the National Academy of Science's Astronomy Survey Committee.

- Lieutenant General William H. Fitch, retired deputy Marine Corps chief of staff for aviation.

- Charles M. Hertzfield, director of research and technology for ITT corporation.

- J. L. Kerrebrock, head of the department of aeronautics and astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

- Gerard K. O'Neill, president of Geostar Co. in Princeton.

- David C. Webb, a space development consultant in Arlington, VA.

The original deadline for the commission's report was 12 October 1985; however, the routine security clearances prepared by the White House have sufficiently delayed the process that the commission will now be given an extra 6 months. (In fact, a 15th member is still, awaiting clearance.)

Congress requested the commission last year because of a long-standing concern on the part of staffers and members that NASA's program has no real focus or objective. Indeed, many space enthusiasts argue that the U.S. space program has not had a real purpose since the end of the Apollo project. The commission is supposed to provide such a focus.

No one quite knows what to expect, however, and it remains to be seen whether anyone will pay attention when the commission finally does report. But Reagan may. As shown by his enthusiastic endorsement of the NASA space station, and his faith in the "Star Wars" Strategic Defense Initiative, the President is enthralled by the possibilities of space.

—M. MITCHELL WALDROP

## Servan-Schreiber Resigns from Computing Center

*Paris.* The charismatic French politician and publisher, Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, has resigned as president of the controversial World Center for Computing, an international research and training center that he set up with the personal support of President François Mitterrand in 1981.

Intended to act as a focal point for

the application of microcomputers and artificial intelligence to a wide range of social needs in both the industrialized world and developing countries, the center has established research projects in countries such as Senegal and Tunisia. It also has been closely involved in setting up plans recently announced by the French government to create 10,000 local workshops in schools, colleges, and universities throughout the country.

From the beginning, however, the center had to live through a continuing series of controversies. Its relatively generous funding and support from industry, for example, as well as its concentration on applied rather than fundamental research topics, has been widely criticized by members of university computing departments, themselves often lacking sufficient resources to meet their teaching and research commitments.

In addition, several foreign computer experts recruited to head research teams at the center—most notably Massachusetts Institute of Technology computer scientist Seymour Papert—have left sooner than expected, complaining about what they saw as the excessively autocratic management style of Servan-Schreiber (*Science*, 3 December 1982, p. 978).

Ironically for someone who is perhaps best known outside France for his book, published in the 1960's, warning Europe of *The American Challenge*, Servan-Schreiber's break with the government has come over its refusal to accept a deal under which the new local workshops would each be equipped with American Apple computers.

In exchange, the U.S. company had agreed to set up a manufacturing plant for its Macintosh computers in France. However, despite support from Mitterrand, who had been impressed by Apple during a recent visit to Silicon Valley, the government subsequently decided that it would instead purchase a new IBM-compatible computer currently under development by the French company Bull.

His successor will be medical scientist Jean-Louis Funck-Brentano, a specialist in kidney disease who has long been engaged in exploring the applications of computers to medicine and has previously worked as a top advisor to several government departments.—DAVID DICKSON

## Prospects Brighten for Electron Accelerator

The political prospects for the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility (CEBAF), a \$225-million project planned for Newport News, Virginia, have improved now that the facility has finally got a full-time manager, according to congressional aides. Hermann A. Grunder, a Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory (LBL) physicist who has served as an advisor to the project since 1982, has agreed to become its first director. Grunder's appointment is seen as bolstering the project's credibility.

Efforts to get the 4-GeV electron accelerator underway have floundered because of congressional doubts about the need for new machines, federal budget constraints and the absence of a permanent project director. The Administration requested funds to start construction this year, but Congress approved only \$5 million for R&D. Because of its deficit reduction drive, the White House did not seek construction money for fiscal year 1986. The issue is expected to lie dormant until summer when the Department of Energy begins preparing its 1987 budget.

Aides on key House and Senate committees think Grunder will be able to disarm congressional skeptics and unify the physics community behind the project. To orchestrate the accelerator's construction and operation, Grunder is expected to assemble a team of senior physicists from LBL and other universities, sources say. Comments one White House aide, "He has the potential for strong leadership."

Indeed, CEBAF's acting director, James S. McCarthy, a University of Virginia physicist, seems relieved. "The signs are all good now," says McCarthy, commenting on Grunder's appointment, which is expected to be announced later this month. "We are confident we can go ahead with the project in the near future." McCarthy is expected to continue with CEBAF, probably playing a major role in directing research efforts at the laboratory, says Harry D. Holmgren, president of the Southeastern Universities Research Assn., CEBAF's sponsor.

—MARK CRAWFORD