Senator Sam Nunn (D–Ga.) told Stoessel that even though he agreed with these recommendations, the commission's partisan cast would probably limit its influence on Capitol Hill. A decision by the panel to hire a local public relations firm appears to have backfired, with many congressmen expressing anger that such partisan efforts will cost the taxpayers additional thousands of dollars.

A Senate vote on the $174-million production proposal is expected to be close, but opponents in the House of Representatives predict a lopsided decision to kill it for the fourth time. The outcome should be known within a week or so.—**R. Jeffrey Smith**

## EVIST to Be Salvaged, More or Less

The sustained clamor that greeted plans to eliminate the Ethics and Values in Science and Technology Program (EVIST) from the budget of the National Science Foundation (NSF) appears to be getting results.

NSF director Erich Bloch, in an April 30 letter to the EVIST board, stated that about $1 million will be available for distribution among the agency's research directorates.

Congress likes EVIST but is unlikely to change the Administration's budget recommendation. So now the question is, Where will the money come from, and how will the program be administered?

This was addressed at a 3 May meeting of the EVIST board where Richard Green, head of the directorate for Science and Technology in International Affairs, did his best to represent the thoughts of Bloch, who was unable to attend. Green said Bloch thinks the program is valuable, but that it should be integrated into the research directorates rather than continue to stand in "isolation."

Beyond that, nothing is clear. Should each directorate be mandated to spend a portion of its funds on EVIST-type activities, or should they be "taxed" to form an EVIST fund? Who decides what is an EVIST-type activity? Should directorates review proposals or should there be a special panel? Observed a board member: "One doesn't feel this is a well-thought out plan on the part of the director."

Comments at the meeting reflected a general opinion that dissemination of the program around the foundation will not work, because most research divisions have little interest in or capability to assess ethics-related proposals. Members appeared to share the sentiment of board chairman Clifford Grobstein to the effect that "if this ain't broke, why fix it."

—**Constance Holden**

## ERAB Panel Ranks Major Materials Facilities

If Secretary of Energy John Herrington accepts the recommendations of a report that was approved by the Energy Research Advisory Board (ERAB) at its 1–2 May meeting, the Department of Energy (DOE) would upgrade its existing major materials research facilities, principally synchrotron radiation and neutron scattering centers, before embarking on the construction of any new ones.

The study, which was authored by an ad hoc ERAB review committee under the chairmanship of Francis Stehli of the University of Oklahoma, began last October following a July report from the National Research Council (NRC) that assigned scientific priorities to the several new major materials research facilities and upgrades of old ones that were being proposed and were estimated to cost $5 million or more (*Science*, 17 August 1984, p. 704).

ERAB's job was to recommend a DOE response to those priorities in the light of the department's energy and defense missions and budgetary realities. Since DOE already operates through its national laboratories more of these kinds of research facilities than other federal agencies, most observers expected it to pick up the tab on these, as well.

Stehli's review committee turned out to be bullish on this prospect: "We conclude that the Department, in its broad mission to provide the nation's science and technology base, should explicitly take the major responsibility of providing major new facilities and capabilities for this vital area of science."

The committee also recognized that a significant increase in funding would be necessary, not only for actual construction, but for R&D prior to construction and operations afterward. "The Department should urgently and aggressively seek the necessary new funds to fill these new responsibilities in the next decade," it concluded. One scenario for funding that would allow for construction of all the facilities calls for a new chunk of $6 million to be added each year for the next 8 years to DOE's materials research budget.

Preconstruction R&D was seen to be particularly necessary to guarantee against the drawn-out commissioning phases that have plagued the last generation of synchrotron-radiation sources. The committee estimated 3 years of preconstruction R&D for an ultra-bright x-ray synchrotron source and 5 years prior to an advanced reactor for neutrons.

Consistent with its concern that adequate R&D precede a commitment to construction of new facilities and with budgetary realities, the committee placed its first priority on upgrades of existing facilities, all of which it ranked equally, whereas the preceding NRC report had ranked planned facilities in two categories, upgrades and new starts, but had not compared one category with the other.

The NRC report had given its third new starts priority behind the x-ray and neutron facilities to a synchrotron source that specialized in generating ultraviolet radiation. Stehli's committee pointed out, however, that the continuing difficulties encountered with the Aladdin facility at the University of Wisconsin, whose completion is uncertain at the moment, changes the picture. If Aladdin is not finished, the need for an ultraviolet source, such as the Advanced Light Source proposed by the the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, would become much more urgent.

Finally, while the committee did not highlight the necessity of allowing for weapons-related research, it consistently noted that DOE's missions include both energy and defense. And, specifically in the area of synchrotron radiation, it called attention to the future needs of the weapons laboratories to carry out both unclassified and classified defense-related research using ultraviolet light.

—**Arthur L. Robinson**