

transfer unused equipment to other institutions.

Universities are urged to be more aggressive in seeking donations from industry. The report also proposes that Congress modify the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 to expand the definition of donations that qualify for tax deductions. It further recommends that research and development tax credit be retained. It adds that the social and behavioral sciences should qualify for the purposes of both the equipment donation deduction and the R&D tax credit.

These measures would improve efficiency in procurement and use of scientific instruments, says the report. Nonetheless, "the overall problem is so large . . . that it cannot be properly addressed without substantial, sustained investment by all sources—federal and state governments, universities, and the private sector."

—CONSTANCE HOLDEN

Condor Agreement Reached

The State of California has reached a tentative agreement with the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service on what to do about the handful of California condors remaining in the wild. State officials have been pressing to capture all the birds, while Interior and the National Audubon Society have sought to allow some birds to remain free.

The plan arrived at on 30 August at a meeting of the state's Fish and Game Commission, the Audubon Society, Interior, and other groups making up the California Condor Recovery Team appears to strike a compromise. It calls for immediately capturing three of six wild condors. But it also provides for three other captive birds, whose genes are represented by other members of the captive flock, to be released in a year or so.

The purpose of leaving the condors free to roam their 11-million acre range in the San Joaquin Valley is to preserve the condor culture, provide guide birds to assist members of the captive flock to adapt to the wild, and to defend the habitat from being developed. This compromise, however, hinges on Interior agreeing to buy the 13,800-acre Hudson Ranch, something the Administration has refused

to do so far. Congress has appropriated \$8.9 million for purchase of the Hudson property, which is owned by a land developer. The ranch now serves as a feeding and observation station. It is meant to provide the condors with a safe feeding area and a release site for captive birds that is relatively free of contaminants and hunters. Interior Secretary Hodel is expected to act on the matter in the near future.

The release of three young birds, the offspring of the "Santa Barbara pair," the only set of birds that are reproducing, could be scuttled by the state if any condors perish in the wild during the next year. In addition to the Santa Barbara pair, one male whose gene stock is represented in the captive flock will be left in the wild. In the event of a loss in the next 12 months, not only would the state have the right to block the release of captive birds, but it could require that the remaining wild birds be captured.

The Fish and Game Commission has favored taking all the birds into captivity at the Los Angeles and San Diego zoos. Behind the agency's stand is the loss of six birds that disappeared last winter, leaving just



Young condors

nine birds in the wild as of this spring. Since then three more condors have been captured, bringing the size of the captive flock to 21.

California officials also have insisted the Interior accelerate mortality studies on the condors so that a workable preservation plan can be devised before captive condors are released. A prime cause of condor's demise has been lead poisoning, which occurs as a result of the birds feeding on animals that have been shot by hunters. In the past, birds also have been killed by cyanide contained in coyote traps, hitting power lines, and hunting.

—MARK CRAWFORD

APA Issues Warning on Antipsychotic Drugs

Continuing concern about the risk of tardive dyskinesia, or involuntary twitching of the muscles, in patients taking antipsychotic drugs has prompted the American Psychiatric Association to issue a warning about use of these agents. Antipsychotic or "neuroleptic" drugs are estimated to cause tardive dyskinesia in 10 to 20 percent of patients, some of whom may not need them.

According to Melvin Sabshin, medical director of the psychiatric association, "Antipsychotic medications are very effective in halting or alleviating the severe psychoses that afflict the severely mentally ill. In many cases, patients who suffer from the debilitating excitement of manic-depressive illness or by the threatening hallucinations of schizophrenia are able to lead productive lives as a result of these medicines. But like many other medications, neuroleptics can cause side effects and we are urging psychiatrists and other physicians to carefully weigh the benefits of the medications against the potential for developing tardive dyskinesia."

The risk has been known for some time. In fact, the psychiatric association first formed a task force on the neurological effects of antipsychotic drugs in 1977. But the problem of inappropriate prescribing and prolonged use is still serious enough to warrant a renewed educational effort. In particular, association officials say, "... neuroleptic drugs are sometimes used in clinical situations where other drugs or non-pharmacological treatments would be primarily indicated." A letter to the association's 31,000 psychiatrist members urges them to "serve whenever possible as consultants to medical colleagues in nursing homes, correctional facilities, institutions for the developmentally disabled and other facilities where the prudent use of neuroleptic agents is extremely important."

An apparent increase in litigation over tardive dyskinesia also lies behind the association's recent warning. Thus, its letter says, "In this context we would emphasize the importance of adequately documented informed consent." —BARBARA J. CULLITON