

System, but allocated \$50,000 less than the \$550,000 requested. Finally, the committee is supporting the Administration's proposal to phase out the Research Associates Program, a postdoctoral research activity, by cutting the budget from \$1.9 million to \$259,000. ■ **MARK CRAWFORD**

## NIH Transfers Disputed Monkeys to Regional Primate Center

The 15 former research monkeys that have been in the custody of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the past 5 years have been transferred to the Delta Regional Primate Center run by Tulane University in Covington, Louisiana.



Joel Ito/ORPRC

William Raub of NIH has stated that no invasive research will be done on the animals and "every effort will be made to resocialize them including entry into breeding groups." But animal activists, who have created a prolonged stir over the situation, say they are still not happy.

The monkeys were placed in NIH's care as the result of a 1981 court case in which Edward Taub of the Institute for Behavioral Research in Silver Spring, Maryland, was found guilty of monkey neglect. At Taub's lab eight of the monkeys had had the sensory nerves removed from their forelimbs; the rest were controls in experiments on nerve regeneration. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the group that originally complained about Taub's research, has been suing to get the animals released to a Texas animal sanctuary called Primarily Primates. The court rejected their plea on the grounds that the group lacked standing, and it is now being considered by an appeals court in Richmond, Virginia.

NIH, which has spent \$30,000 a year maintaining the unemployed monkeys, has

come under increasing pressure to find a permanent home for them. Recently, at the initiative of Representative Robert C. Smith (R-NH), 306 members of Congress wrote NIH asking that the animals be sent to Texas. NIH said this was unacceptable because the monkeys have lived their lives in cages and might not survive in the social setting of the range.

Last month Smith introduced a "sense of the Congress" resolution reiterating that the monkeys should be sent to a private sanctuary. An aide to Smith says the congressman opposes the transfer to Louisiana and wants the monkeys to "live out their lives in peace at no cost to the taxpayers." The resolution, with 111 cosponsors, is still pending. Smith's aide says her boss finds the issue particularly worthy of attention as a "case of bureaucratic bullheadedness."

Meanwhile, researcher Taub, whose conviction was later overturned, is writing up his research with the aid of a Guggenheim grant. Although he lost his NIH grant, he has not lost the esteem of his peers. He was named a AAAS fellow at the association's annual convention in May. ■

CONSTANCE HOLDEN

## Newman's "Energy Output" Machine Put to the Test

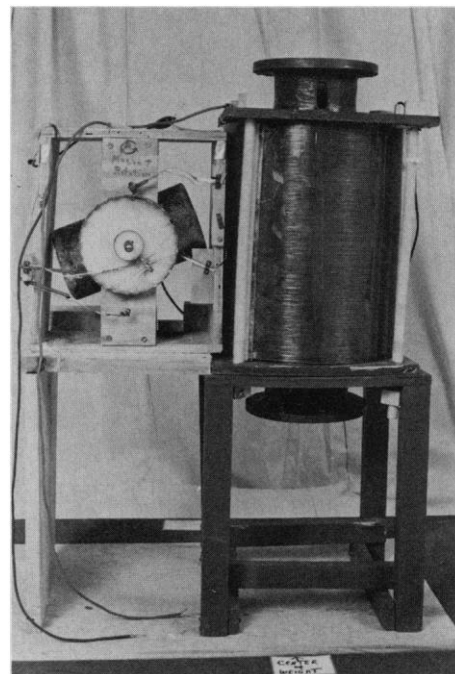
What's a device with a battery pack, a magnet, and a coil wired together? For the past 6 years, Joseph Newman, an inventor from Mississippi, has been loudly proclaiming that it's a revolutionary machine which produces more power than it uses. The National Bureau of Standards recently issued its own verdict after analyzing Newman's machine: "In none of tests did the device's approach 100%. . . . Our results are clear and unequivocal," the bureau said.

Newman has gone to great lengths to try to win a patent on his energy output machine. When the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office indicated in 1984 that the device did not work, Newman sued the agency. He hired a publicist, and the media often portrayed him as an underdog pitted against the scientific establishment. Then the court ordered Newman to submit the machine to the National Bureau of Standards for testing. Newman reluctantly complied.

A physicist and two electrical engineers from the bureau tested the machine in a variety of ways to measure its energy input and output and used instrumentation that is common in research engineering laboratories. The sole power source of the device

was 116 9-volt batteries. According to the test results,\* the device's efficiency ranged from 27 to 67%, depending on the voltage, the power drawn from the device, and the condition of insulating tape on one of the parts. (The tape kept burning from sparks generated by the machine, which caused the efficiency to drop and had to be replaced frequently.)

According to John Lyons, director of the bureau's National Engineering Laboratory, the device basically converted direct current to alternating current. He noted that there



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**Newman's machine** did not match his claims, federal scientists say.

are several machines already on the market that do the same thing, but they run at 90% efficiency or higher.

Newman had court permission to observe the bureau's tests, but never appeared for any of the experiments, which were conducted between March and June. His spokesman Evan Soule said Newman will ask the court to order the testing of the test equipment. Newman said in an interview, "I have no respect for the National Bureau of Standards. This is a conspiracy against me."

The testing cost the bureau \$75,000, which it hopes to recoup from the patent office. The patent office will submit the results to U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, which will try the case in December. ■ **MARJORIE SUN**

\*"Report of Tests on Joseph Newman's Device," U.S. Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards, NBSIR 866-3405, June 1986.