

that the university could be exempted from the measure because of the large degree of autonomy granted the university under the state constitution. Administrators and faculty at UC, however, have been working to rally support against the amendment on the assumption that the university would not escape.

UC vice president for budget and university relations William B. Baker has been quoted as warning that if the university cannot attract and retain leading scholars, particularly in the sciences and medicine, the state would lose its competitive edge in recruiting. ■ **JOHN WALSH**

## German Decision Improves Prospects for European Mini-Shuttle

*Paris*

After 2 years of intense lobbying by both the French government and its own aerospace companies, the West German government announced in Bonn on 17 October that it is prepared to pay 30% of the \$50-million preparatory-stage costs for the mini-shuttle Hermès, designed to provide Europe with an independent capability for manned space operations (*Science*, 17 January, p. 209).

Hermès is being designed to carry a crew of between four and six people, who will be able to conduct a range of research and other activities in low earth orbit, including the servicing of space stations. Currently scheduled for initial testing at the end of the 1990's, it will be launched from an expanded version of the French-designed Ariane rocket.

German chancellor Helmut Kohl said after a top-level meeting with both space and economic officials last week that a decision on whether to support construction of the mini-shuttle would not be taken until the end of next year. Much will depend on the estimated final costs, which German space scientists currently feel will be considerably higher than the \$2 billion being quoted by their French counterparts.

French officials, however, are now confident that they can persuade the European Space Agency to accept Hermès as a full European project to be developed in parallel with participation in the U.S. space station. The French government has said it will pay over 45% of the costs of the preparatory phase, and that it has more than enough commitments from other countries to meet the remaining 25%. ■ **DAVID DICKSON**

## NSF Examines Detail Of Its Salary Support

The National Science Foundation is taking a hard look at the academic salaries it finances through research grants. Foundation director Erich Bloch told *Science* that the survey portends no drastic action to make cuts, but is intended to help NSF see "What we are doing, what we want to do."

Asked what had called attention to the salary issue, Bloch said that salary payments had gone up about 50% in current dollar terms in the past 4 or 5 years, outdistancing the percentage increase in the overall NSF budget. (The fiscal year 1981 NSF budget was \$1.096 billion compared to \$1.458 billion for 1986, an increase of about 33%.) National Science Board chairman Roland Schmitt of the General Electric Company, said the survey was simply a matter of "prudent management when an element of cost is increasing."

Schmitt said, "The important thing is that people not leap to the conclusion that there is a problem there. That's not the case." However, he noted that salaries account for a large chunk of the NSF budget and that there are differences within the foundation and in the universities in how federal funds for salaries are administered, and "that is an area we have to understand." ■

**JOHN WALSH**

## Comings and Goings

Donald Hicks has carried out his threat to resign as the top scientist in the Department of Defense if he were not appointed to the newly created post of under secretary of defense for acquisition. Not only did the appointment go to somebody else—Richard P. Godwin, a former official of Bechtel, Inc.—but Hicks would have reported to the new acquisitions chief. Hicks left the Pentagon on 10 October.

The Soviet Academy of Sciences has elected **Gury I. Marchuk**, a physicist and mathematician, as its new president. Marchuk, 61, replaces the 83-year-old **Anatoly P. Alexandrov**, who has headed the academy since 1975. The Soviet news agency, Tass, said Marchuk was elected by secret ballot, but it also said that the Politburo had recommended him for the job.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism has a new director, **Enoch Gordis**, a specialist in internal medicine. Gordis has been director of the alcoholism

program at Elmhurst Hospital in Elmhurst, New York, since 1971.

**William Raub** has been named deputy director of the National Institutes of Health, succeeding **Thomas Malone** who recently retired. Another NIH appointment is that of **Phillip Gorden** as director of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Gorden, a diabetes specialist, has been with the institute for the past 20 years.



**William Raub**, new #2 at NIH.

President Reagan has picked five new members and one incumbent to fill six vacancies on the National Science Board, the policy-making body for the National Science Foundation. Senate confirmation is required for appointment to the 24-member board. Renominated for a second term is **Mary L. Good**, Allied Signal Corporation. The new members are **F. Albert Cotton**, Texas A&M; **John C. Hancock**, United Telecommunications, Inc.; **James B. Holderman**, University of South Carolina; **James L. Powell**, Franklin and Marshall College; and **Howard Schneiderman**, Monsanto Company. The appointees will fill six of the eight vacancies created in May by the end of board members' terms. A third of the NSB's 6-year terms lapse every 2 years.

Meanwhile, the National Science Board's chairman, **Roland W. Schmitt**, has stepped down as senior vice president of corporate research and development at General Electric to become senior vice president and chief scientist. **Walter L. Robb**, head of GE's Medical Systems Business Group, is filling Schmitt's position. Schmitt, 63, is nearing GE's mandatory retirement age and is said to have been pressing the company for some time to find a successor.