

under, most have endured and their number has modestly increased in recent years. In most cases, the programs were established with financial help from federal agencies or private foundations, notably the Sloan Foundation, but have successfully made the transition to reliance on institutional support as federal funding and other outside funding have declined.

The progress report on science and engineering and public policy programs seems to

be that they have established an academic niche for themselves and made a tangible contribution to the process of making public policy. But as AAAS executive officer William D. Carey observes in his foreword to the report, "neither a recognizable field nor an organized profession has yet emerged." The report winds up with a series of recommendations, which mainly urge the programs to do a better job of collaborating to fill these gaps. ■ JOHN WALSH

NIH to Restore Slashed Grants

When the President submitted his fiscal year 1988 budget to Congress at the beginning of January, he asked for a retroactive cut of \$334 million in funds for the National Institutes of Health for the current year by "extending their availability" FY 1988. NIH was instructed to behave as though the budget reduction were in effect. Consequently, grants issued since 5 January were pared by an average of 10% to 14% below study section recommendations.

Now, the Administration has backed down. Last week, NIH received clear orders to spend the full \$6.2 billion that Congress has appropriated for this year. Researchers whose grants were cut substantially can expect an increase. However, the increases will not necessarily be uniform, nor will every grant awarded since January be amended. For instance, some smaller grants were not reduced significantly in the first place.

Internal NIH records for recent grants should show two figures: one recording the amount at which the grant would have been funded under business as usual, the other showing the additional "downward negotiation." In many cases, the restored funds will be the difference between those two figures, but institute officials will have considerable latitude. Some 1600 to 2000 grants are subject to revision and it is likely to be late April before the process is complete.

The Administration's retreat, forced by pressure from Congress and the threat of a lawsuit alleging illegal withholding of funds, was signalled by a letter from the OMB director to the secretary of Health and Human Services. Dated 24 February, it instructed the department to cease its withholding of funds. But it said nothing about withdrawing the President's proposal.

In a subsequent letter, this time from HHS Secretary Otis R. Bowen to Representative William H. Natcher (D-KY), chairman of the House committee for NIH appropriations, the Administration was more specific. In addition to amending recent grants, NIH will plan to support the 6354 projects contemplated in the appropriation for FY 1987, Bowen said. (The Administration had wanted a reduction of 700 grants.) Although the President's budget proposal has not been withdrawn, Bowen assured Natcher that NIH will be free to spend its full congressional appropriation for FY 1987 "unless the Congress enacts legislation to the contrary." Congress has made it plain it has no such intentions. ■

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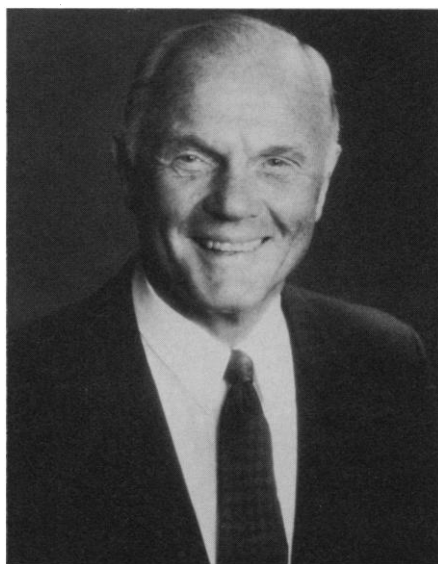
Glenn Asks Reagan to Halt Pakistan Aid Pending Review of Nuclear Programs

President Reagan has been asked to immediately suspend all military aid to Pakistan pending the outcome of a "thorough review" of Pakistan's nuclear research program. The request was made on 5 March by Senator John Glenn (D-OH), chairman of the Committee on Governmental Affairs in the wake of reports that Pakistan has an atomic bomb or all the components needed to assemble one. Glenn urged the President not to reinstate military aid until the Administration has obtained "reliable assurances from the Pakistanis that they have ceased producing nuclear explosive materials."

At issue is the global spread of nuclear weapons and the integrity of the United States nuclear nonproliferation policy. In the case of Pakistan, the United States is in a difficult position because of its strategic interests in South Asia. Since 1985, Congress has required the President to certify every fall that Pakistan does not "possess" a nuclear weapon. It is doubtful that the Administration can do so again, if the law is subject to a strict interpretation (*Science*, 6 March, p. 1131).

The White House wants to avoid damaging its relations with Pakistan, something that could affect American efforts to support rebels in Afghanistan. Robert A. Peck, deputy assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs at the State Department, suggested on 5 March that Congress refrain from handing the Pakistani government an outright ultimatum on the issue. Peck, who appeared before the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Asian and Pacific affairs, also indicated that at this time the Administration probably could not provide the assurances that Glenn seeks.

The Administration's reluctance to confront Pakistan openly on the matter was also reflected in testimony delivered on 5 March by Richard N. Perle, assistant secretary of defense for international security. When asked by Senator William V. Roth, Jr. (R-



Senator Glenn wants assurances that Pakistan is not producing nuclear materials.

DE), "When is a nuclear bomb a bomb?" Perle said it was "a difficult question." He suggested that a finding that a nation possesses a bomb should not be made just on the basis of the country's having a prototype bomb. Matters such as energy yield and delivery systems also must be considered, he added. Whether Congress will accept such an interpretation of the law remains to be seen.

Glenn has been a staunch supporter of U.S. policy on Afghanistan, but he is not about to sidestep the issue. A Pakistani bomb has the potential of starting a nuclear arms race with India, contends Glenn, who reminded Reagan that Pakistan already has a "made-in-America delivery system"—F-16 aircraft supplied by the United States. Says Glenn, "a failure to draw a line in Pakistan will be seen by other countries . . . as a tacit admission by the United States that . . . its nonproliferation policy is only a facade." ■

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