ture superconductors and make an immediate promise of more than $3 million for its first year of operation, has been criticized on the grounds that major new initiatives requiring specialist teams cannot be created overnight.

There has also been criticism of the fact that the industrial representatives on the new advisory boards came primarily from large, well-established companies. There is concern that the point of view of smaller, but perhaps more innovative, companies will not be heard.

Finally, there is little evidence either that the government is likely to relax its current stringency on increasing research funds—even in strategic areas such as information technology—or that the private sector, despite government exhortations, is stepping in enthusiastically to fill the gap.

Tombs, however, remains confident that the new machinery will provide a much-needed process for selecting priorities, including (at the apparent insistence of officials from the Treasury) responsibility for providing advice on which sectors of science should be abandoned. The United Kingdom, he says, should decide what its scientists do best and concentrate funds on those areas. He mentions ground-based astronomy as one field in which it may no longer be appropriate for Britain to be active in every domain. Meanwhile, high-energy physicists are waiting with interest to see where ACOST comes out on the future of Britain's contribution to CERN. ■

DAVID DICKSON

News Moves

Going:

After 14 years with Research News, **Gina Kolata** has moved to the science section of the *New York Times*. Research News also loses **Arthur L. Robinson**, another veteran of 14 years, who joins the staff of the Center for X-Ray Optics at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Berkeley, California.

Coming:

Leslie Roberts has joined Research News from the National Academy of Sciences' *Issues in Science and Technology*, of which she was editor. **William Booth**, formerly a free-lance writer for the *Texas Monthly*, and a Vannevar Bush Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology during 1986–1987, has joined News and Comment.

Briefing:

Europe Agrees to EUREKA Projects

Madrid

Research ministers from 19 European countries last week approved the inclusion of 58 new high-technology projects, with a total value of more than $800 million, in the EUREKA initiative. This is a scheme launched 2 years ago at the prompting of French President François Mitterrand designed to link Europe's industrial and academic scientists and engineers in the development of market-oriented technologies.

The projects approved at a meeting here range from a relatively small research effort being launched by scientists in Britain and Denmark into the production of fruit flavors from plant tissue cultures, to a major 5-year, $60-million project involving the joint development by teams in Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, and France of the high-speed optical transmission of telecommunications signals. Each project is funded from private and public sources.

The new projects bring the total to 165, with a value of $5.8 billion, the total approved since EUREKA was launched in 1985 in what many saw as a direct response to the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). European politicians argue that EUREKA is needed to counterbalance civilian spin-offs from SDI for U.S. companies.

A preliminary analysis by the EUREKA secretariat of projects launched so far reveals that the most popular fields for collaboration are in information technology (25% of the projects), robotics and manufacturing (17.6%), and biotechnology (13%). Other important fields include new materials (12%), environmental protection (8.3%), and telecommunications (7.4%).

One of the conclusions of the ministers at the Madrid meeting was that a special effort should be made within the EUREKA initiative to encourage greater university-industry cooperation on future projects. ■ **D.D.**

Four Researchers Honored with Laskers

The 1987 Lasker Awards have been won by a Danish psychiatrist who pioneered drug therapy for mental illness and by three molecular geneticists who helped to solve one of the major mysteries of immunology—namely, how the immune system provides the essentially unlimited number of different antibody molecules needed to recognize all the foreign molecules an individual might encounter in a lifetime.

Mogens Schou of the Aarhus University Psychiatric Institute in Risskov, Denmark, won for his work showing that lithium can control the sharp mood swings of manic-depressive illness.

Back in the 1950s when Schou originally proposed lithium as a treatment for manic-depressive illness, the suggestion was greeted with more than a little skepticism. The idea that mental illnesses could have a biochemical basis and therefore be susceptible to drug therapy was then considered radical. Now, of course, it is widely accepted.

Susumu Tonegawa of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Philip Leder of Harvard Medical School, and Leroy Hood of the California Institute of Technology won a Lasker for their contributions to solving the mystery of antibody diversity. Simply put, the problem concerned how the genome could encode such a large number of antibodies and still have room for genes for any other proteins. "If I were to choose one preeminent immunology problem over the past three decades, it would be the question of antibody diversity," says Thomas Waldmann of the National Cancer Institute and a member of the Lasker Awards jury.

Tonegawa, Leder, and Hood found that a great deal, although not all, of antibody diversity is produced by combining separate segments of DNA to form the antibody genes. The Lasker Awards are well known as preludes to the Nobel Prize. Forty-four of the 120 scientists who have won Laskers during the past 42 years have also made the trip to Stockholm. ■ **J.L.M.**

Fraud Reimbursement

The University of Pittsburgh has returned $163,000 to the National Institute of Mental Health following the fraud investigation involving psychologist Stephen Breuning. A panel investigating Breuning concluded in May that he had engaged in "serious scientific misconduct." Most of the money was expended as part of a grant Breuning obtained from the NIMH while at Pittsburgh; about $51,000 was for research Breuning was supposed to be doing under a grant obtained by Robert Sprague of the University of Illinois.

The Justice Department is currently gathering information on the case with an eye to possible criminal prosecution for violation of the False Claims Act, which prohibits the submission of false information to the government for the purpose of obtaining money. Violation carries a penalty of $10,000, a jail term of up to 10 years, or both. ■ **C.H.**