yer Ed Forgotson, a lobbyist representing North Carolina in the competition for the SSC, drafted a science plank for the Republicans and took it to the Bush campaign. After discussions with the campaign staff, Forgotson told *Science*, the two decided their best move was to try to influence the party platform.

Forgotson called on his friends Schwitters and Frampton, former project director of North Carolina's bid to capture the SSC. Frampton, in turn, enlisted Weinberg. Forgotson then used his political connections; he was deputy finance chairman of Ronald Reagan's reelection campaign in 1984 and worked for Senator Bob Kasten (R–WI) in his 1980 and 1986 campaigns. Kasten was chairman of the Republican platform committee this year.

Trivelpiece had his own connections. He was a Reagan appointee at the Department of Energy before coming to AAAS. He also pitched in by offering advice on how to prepare and present testimony. In addition, he donated some $500 of his own money to pay the three physicists' airfare to New Orleans.

Trivelpiece said his efforts were nonpartisan. "I would have been pleased whichever party had a strong science plank," he said. "I'm hoping this will prod the Democrats into addressing these issues as well."

The lack of science in the Democratic platform seems to be the result of the insular process by which it was developed. The wording was hammered out at committee meetings in Mackinac Island, Michigan, and Denver with little input from outsiders. The brevity and vague wording of the platform reportedly was a strategic ploy to keep the document from looking like a special interest wish-list.

The approach did not invite outside advice. Fermilab director Leon Lederman, for example, at Forgotson's suggestion, wanted to offer a plank for the Democrats. "But by the time we got our thinking together, the word was out that the platform had already been written," Lederman said.

There are unconfirmed reports of scientists approaching Democratic platform officials and being rebuffed. Democratic platform officials could not be reached for comment.

Observers caution that there is a difference between a party platform and a candidate's platform. On 15 August, for example, Dukakis came out for a manned space station, which was not included in his party's platform. In doing so, he seemed to steal an issue from George Bush, who had not publicly endorsed the program in this campaign, although his party did.

■ GREGORY BYRNE

The SSC and the Environment

If the Superconducting Super Collider (SSC) is built at the site proposed by Arizona, 101 miles of new roads will have to be constructed. Building the facility in Michigan would require only 10 miles of new roads; but it could result in the loss of 2800 acres of wetlands.

Those are among the preliminary findings of an analysis* of the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the SSC at the seven sites that the Department of Energy (DOE) is currently considering for the proposed atom smasher. The department is now comparing the costs of each proposal and evaluating the sites against six technical criteria, of which environmental impact is the third most important (geology and tunneling considerations rank higher). It plans to identify a preferred site in November, issue a final environmental analysis in December, and announce the winning site in January 1989. So far, however, Congress has not approved construction funds for the facility.

The environmental analysis indicates that construction of the 53-mile SSC tunnel, associated facilities, roads, and power supplies, will have obvious environmental consequences. A peak work force of between 9,500 and 11,000 will bring economic benefits but will also place increased pressure on local resources. DOE's preliminary findings indicate, however, that there appear to be no environmental show-stoppers at any of the sites. On the key question of water supplies, for example, the project would increase depletion of ground-water resources at four of the sites, but in no case would it place an undue burden on supplies.

The following are among the impacts identified by DOE at each site:

■ **Arizona.** The proposed site is on sparsely populated arid land 30 miles southwest of Phoenix. In addition to new roads, 41 miles of electric power lines would need to be laid down. No wetlands would be destroyed. Water would be supplied entirely by deep wells—the water table is generally at least 350 feet below the surface—and some decline in local aquifers may result. Only four residences would need to be relocated.

■ **Colorado.** The proposed site is in an agricultural area 65 miles northeast of Denver. Ninety-four miles of new roads would be required and 99 miles of new power lines. Construction would threaten only 20 acres of wetlands, although there are substantial wetland areas nearby. Only five residences would need to be relocated.

■ **Illinois.** The proposed site is adjacent to the Fermilab facility, 40 miles west of Chicago. It is a region that includes suburban housing, commerce, light industry, and farming. Only 8 miles of new roads and 2 miles of new power lines would be required. About 850 acres of wetlands would be threatened. Some 219 residences and businesses would have to be relocated.

■ **Michigan.** Michigan's proposed site is 35 miles northwest of Ann Arbor, in an ecologically diverse region including wetlands and forests. It currently supports agriculture and timber production. Only 10 miles of new roads would be required and 6 miles of new power lines. The site includes 2800 acres of wetlands. A total of 221 residences and businesses would have to be relocated.

■ **North Carolina.** The proposed site is about 15 miles northeast of Durham, in a relatively undisturbed forested area. It includes significant wetland resources and primarily supports commercial logging. A total of 285 acres of wetlands would be threatened by the SSC. Some 38 miles of new roads would be required and 4 miles of new power lines. Some 111 residences and businesses would have to be relocated.

■ **Tennessee.** The proposed site is about 30 miles southeast of Nashville, in an area dominated by mixed deciduous forests. Small-scale farming and timber production are the major commercial activities in the region. Significant wetlands and aquatic resources are near the proposed site, although less than 10 acres of wetlands would be lost from construction. A total of 116 residences and businesses would have to be relocated.

■ **Texas.** The proposed site is about 25 miles south of Dallas and 35 miles southeast of Fort Worth, in a region that is at the transition between eastern deciduous forests and the arid plains. Thirty-one miles of new roads and 5 miles of power lines will be required. Construction would affect less than 10 acres of wetlands. A total of 224 residences and businesses would have to be relocated. ■ COLIN NORMAN

**Superconducting Super Collider: Draft Environmental Impact Statement*, Department of Energy, August 1988.