

the subcommittee since 1971, did not seek reelection. The next in line for the subcommittee chairmanship is Representative Robert Traxler (D-MI).

In addition to electing various officials to represent them, voters in several states also participated directly in the legislative process by approving or disapproving various initiatives on the ballot. Among them were the following:

■ **AIDS testing and reporting.** In California, the electorate said yes and no to AIDS measures dealing with the contentious issues of mandatory reporting and mandatory testing.

Voters strongly opposed Proposition 102, which would have forced physicians and others to report the names of people who were infected with the AIDS virus. This was the third time such a requirement appeared on a California ballot. Unlike the previous two attempts, which were sullied by their connection to political oddball Lyndon LaRouche, the most recent effort was cosponsored by Representative William Dannemeyer (R-CA), the conservative congressman who has failed to get a similar proposal through the U.S. Congress, and Paul Gann, California's popular crusader against taxes, who was infected with HIV during a blood transfusion in 1982. In a turn that surprised many, the measure also had the support of California Governor George Deukmejian. The proposition, though, was opposed by the California Medical Association and most public health officials, as well as AIDS researchers and advocates for AIDS patients. The proposal was defeated by a margin of 66% to 34%.

California voters did, however, approve Proposition 96, which will allow the courts to order mandatory testing of some criminal suspects for HIV. The measure was authored by the sheriff of Los Angeles County.

■ **Research on tobacco-related illness.** Again in California, where placing propositions on state-wide ballots has become a way of life, voters approved a tax hike of 25 cents for each pack of cigarettes. Proposition 99 is expected to generate \$600 million in added revenues, which will go to support health education on smoking, treatment for uninsured patients, and research into tobacco-related illnesses. The \$30 million for research will be doled out by the California legislature.

■ **Nuclear power.** Voters in Massachusetts turned down an initiative that would have shut down the state's two nuclear plants and foreclosed construction of future nuclear reactors. The measure was defeated by a margin of two to one.

■ **COLIN NORMAN**

*William Booth contributed to this article.*

## Sic Transit Gloria Transition

One thing President-elect George Bush will not lack this fall is advice. During the 10-week interregnum between the election and inauguration, deep thinkers of all kinds will come knocking at his door offering expertise and guidance. Among the groups waiting to brief him are half-a-dozen claiming special insights on science and technology.

The transition is a slow-moving rite of passage, one that perhaps makes less sense now than it did in the 18th century, when officeholders had to trek to Washington by horse. Some argue that it is still useful as an educational cramming period for the new Chief Executive.

But in this case it seems less crucial than in others. The President-elect already has a grasp of bureaucratic protocol through his involvement in the Office of Management and Budget. He has a solid cadre of workers which has been on location in the White House for 8 years. But Bush and his staff are about to be reeducated.

On 9 November, Bush named two staffers to head his transition team and take the incoming advice. They are Craig Fuller, his former chief of staff, and Robert Teeter, a campaign strategist. James Baker III, Bush's campaign director and former Secretary of the Treasury, will be the new Secretary of State. C. Boyden Gray will be the White House counsel and Sheila Tate will be the transition press secretary. Chase Untermeyer, a former assistant secretary of the Navy and the nominal transition chief until last week, will serve as White House personnel director.

According to an authoritative count taken by *National Journal* reporter Kirk Victor, well over 30 groups are mobilized, white papers in hand, to provide transition briefings to whomever they can corral. A sample of those with a technical flavor are:

■ The National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine. "Brief, readable" reports will be coming forth in the next weeks, according to an Academy staffer, and they will contain "actual recommendations." Staffers will also provide briefings to the transition team. The four topics chosen for this high-priority treatment are: science advice to the President, AIDS research, space policy, and threats to the global environment.

■ The Carnegie Corporation of New York will offer some specialized advice on how the President should solicit science advice. Its Council on Science, Technology, and Government, cochaired by William Golden of the AAAS and Joshua Lederberg of Rockefeller University, will turn over its report in mid-November. After reading a science policy speech given by Bush in the last days of the campaign (*Science* 4 November, p. 665), Golden says, "It looks like the patient got our prescription." In that talk Bush promised to involve the science adviser in drafting the budget, among other things. Now, Golden says, the question is: "Will the patient take the medicine?"

■ The White Burkett Miller Center at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, has also put together a report on science advice to the President. That effort was cochaired by former national security adviser Brent Scowcroft and former Cornell University President Dale Corson. It went to the transition staff 2 weeks ago.

■ The Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) has begun putting out a series of advisory papers to the President-elect on international economics, space policy, foreign affairs, and national security policy. In a press conference on 10 November, CSIS President David Abshire stressed the need for "immediate" action to avoid "an executive-legislative gridlock." He was particularly eager that the President reach a quick understanding with Democratic leaders on priorities in the defense budget. It is equally important to develop a strategy for conventional force reduction talks to begin in Europe next spring. CSIS urges the creation of a new post at the White House: assistant to the President for international economic affairs.

■ The National Academy of Public Administration has released a study, chaired by former Comptroller General Elmer Staats, on how to run the White House more efficiently. Although it urges the President to reduce the proliferation of special advisers and executive councils, it makes exceptions for science and economic policy.

■ The National Space Council, an advocate of vigorous space exploration and development, will add its work to the growing mountain of policy papers on this topic. "We're going to put it into the hands of whoever is designated to receive it," says staff chief David Brandt.

■ **ELIOT MARSHALL**