

Briefings

edited by CONSTANCE HOLDEN

Bromley Confirmed; Hill Awaits Deputies

D. Allan Bromley received unanimous Senate confirmation on 3 August as presidential science adviser and director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. The Yale University physicist is the first Cabinet-level science adviser and is expected to participate in selected Cabinet meetings.

As part of President Bush's commitment to rebuilding OSTP, which saw its staff and budget decline sharply during the last 4 years of the Reagan Administration, the budget of the office is expected to rise from \$1 million to \$3 million in 1990. For the first time, OSTP will also have four associate directors, all of whom must be confirmed by the Senate.

The probable choices for two of the posts are: James B. Wyngaarden, recently resigned director of the National Institutes of Health, to manage biomedical sciences; and J. Thomas Ratchford, deputy executive officer at the AAAS, to oversee domestic policy and international affairs. Still up in the air are the directorship for physical sciences, which reportedly has been difficult to fill, and the newly created post for industrial technology.

AZT for ARC

Positive results prompted federal health officials last week to stop prematurely a double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial of AZT for patients with early AIDS-related complex (ARC). Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said preliminary results showed that "significantly fewer persons receiving [AZT] progressed to advanced ARC

Obsolescence may not be all bad. Geophysicists looking for ways to strew their instruments across the Pacific sea floor may get a chance to plug them into some impressive extension cords—thousands of kilometers of outmoded transoceanic telecommunications cables.

It seems U.S. and Japanese telecommunications companies are replacing the coaxial cables linking the mainland United States, Hawaii, and the western Pacific, which have only 138 channels each, with fiber optic cables having 7560 channels.

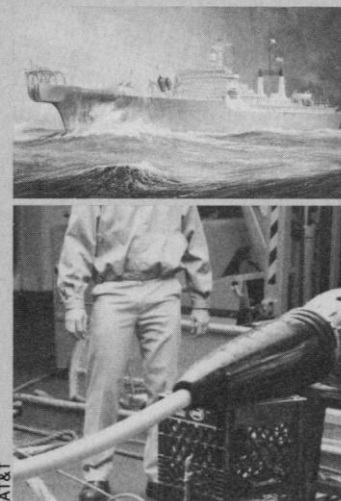
If scientists get to use the hand-me-downs to supply power and transmit data, they might be able to achieve precise seismic imaging of the earth's interior. They could also mea-

Plugging into the Pacific Ocean

sure currents and warn of passing tsunamis.

The first group to explore the new possibility are Junzo Kasa-

hara of the Earthquake Research Institute in Tokyo and his colleagues, who are looking for funding for a test instrumentation of the recently abandoned Guam-Japan cable.



AT&T liner (inset) hooks up "extension cord."

and AIDS." All patients in the trial will now be offered AZT. The Food and Drug Administration has promised to work with AZT's manufacturer Burroughs Wellcome to make the drug more widely available.

Roe Plans Hearing on Fate of NIH Monkeys

Robert Roe (D-NJ) is preparing to grill NIH officials next month about the disposition of 15 monkeys that were seized from an agency-supported researcher in 1982 (*Science*, 23 June, p. 1437). The animals have been held by NIH since then, following allegations of mistreatment by a Silver Spring, Maryland, psychologist, Edward Taub.

Roe, who is chairman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, does not understand why NIH will not allow Moorpark College, a teaching zoo, to care for the primates. NIH, which is involved in a suit by animal activists over custody of the monkeys, initially backed having the private institution assess how much damage they had suffered from nerve-severing research

and whether they should be kept alive. But when Moorpark veterinarians said the animals could be successfully rehabilitated, NIH deputy director William Raub wrote the college last October questioning their conclusions. In June, to break the stalemate, Roe and 30 other House members introduced a bill to force NIH to transfer the monkeys from its primate center in Covington, Louisiana, to Moorpark.

Stars and the Greenhouse

How many movie stars are worried about the international consequences of greenhouse warming? Well, Robert Redford is one, and he's doing something about it. On 23 to 26 August the Institute of Resource Management—founded by Redford in 1981—will host a symposium on global change at the Sundance conference center in Colorado where U.S. and Soviet scientists, policymakers, and communicators will discuss what both countries can do to slow the atmospheric buildup of greenhouse gasses.

Redford has attracted some heavy hitters: four U.S. senators, NASA's James Hansen, the Smithsonian Institution's Thomas Lovejoy, and Cornell astronomer Carl Sagan among others. Among the Soviets attending are Georgii Golitsyn, director of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, and Roald Sagdeev of the Institute of Space Research.

Sex Secrets Safe

AIDS researchers may not be getting hoped for new information about American sexual behavior. The House of Representatives has removed \$11 million from the Public Health Service's budget that would have paid for a national sex survey. Representative William H. Natcher (D-KY), chairman of a key appropriations subcommittee, evidently doesn't think much of sex surveys—or at least he was not prepared to fight conservative House opponents of the plan, who might have tried to scuttle the entire PHS appropriation over this issue. Politicians and health officials are looking for ways to restore the money.