

ployment test.

In a 10 July statement, the department proposed that state employment services, which get most of their funding from the federal government, no longer be allowed to use the test to rank applicants for job referrals.

Use of the test has come under attack from several quarters. Minority groups say it is unfair, while others have opposed the method the U.S. Employment Service uses to try to get around the problem of low minority test scores. Called "within group scoring," it involves adjusting scores of minority applicants so they will be competitive with whites in job referrals. Among those who object are handicapped people, who want to be included in special score adjustments, and the B'nai B'rith, which opposes within group scoring.

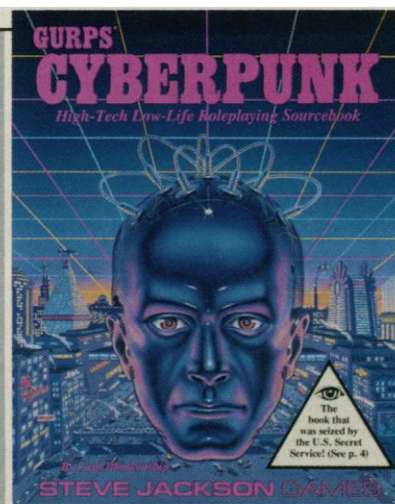
A National Academy of Sciences study conducted for the employment service and released last year (*Science*, 2 June 1989, p. 1036) said the test is valid and endorsed the scoring procedure, but said more research is needed.

The Labor Department intends to conduct a 2-year study to see how the test can be improved and to explore alternate ways of evaluating a worker's potential.

East German Academy in Peril

While most Germans—East and West—are jubilant about reunification, there is trepidation among the 25,000-member staff of the East German Academy of Sciences, whose financial survival is threatened. The reunification agreement signed last month makes no mention of science or research, and although scientists at the Academy will now receive their salaries in deutsche marks, nobody knows how long the payments can be maintained.

Many of the industrial combines of the East, themselves struggling for survival, have canceled their R&D contracts with the Academy. The East German government has said it will make



Hacker manual. This was among materials seized by Secret Service raiders earlier this year.

tional rights apply just as firmly to digital forms of communication as to print media.

For the moment, the foundation will focus on the legal defense of two people targeted in the recent raids: Craig Neidorf, a college student who was charged with wire fraud and receiving stolen property after he distributed a copy of an emergency telephone manual that someone had lifted from Southwestern Bell's computer system, and Steve Jackson, a Texas computer games publisher who runs a bulletin board. Jackson's latest publication—a book called *Gurp's Cyberpunk* which describes fantasy hacker games—was seized along with computer equipment by the Secret Service in March. Agents later returned most of the materials, but Jackson claims to have lost \$125,000 in the process.

Kapor, who says he hopes to civilize the electronic frontier, has recruited two major donors to EFF: Steven Wozniak, a founder of Apple Computer, and an anonymous "Silicon Valley high-tech pioneer." Each has made donations in "six figures." The foundation, in turn, has given \$275,000 to a Palo Alto group, Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, for the support of an ongoing civil liberties project.

Crimebusters vs. Cyberpunks

In a series of raids dubbed Operation Sun Devil, the U.S. Secret Service entered homes in 14 cities earlier this year searching for evidence of computer crimes. Agents broke locks, seized computers, and took four people into custody. The main target was the "Legion of Doom," a group of young "cyberpunk" hackers who have struck terror into the hearts of computer network managers. The doomsters are accused of stealing passwords and illegally tapping into private data banks.

But the raids themselves terrified some people, and last week evidence of a backlash appeared. Mitchell Kapor, the Yale-educated computer whiz who created the Lotus 1-2-3 accounting program, called a press conference in Washington, D.C., to announce the birth of the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), formed in response to what some see as overzealous enforcement of computer security laws. Based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the nonprofit group will try to "create new metaphors," Kapor said, to show that constitutional rights apply just as firmly to digital forms of communication as to print media.

each year of grace will cost. Riedmüller is looking to Bonn to pick up the tab, but West German officials have not yet commented on her proposal.



Stephen Hawking

Hawking Appeals for Handicapped

Stephen Hawking, the theoretical physicist whose severe physical handicaps have not prevented him from becoming a

brilliant scientist and best-selling author, is helping open the door for other handicapped scholars. He is the chief patron of a fund-raising drive to build a hostel for disabled students at Cambridge University.

Speaking at the launch of the campaign, Hawking said he himself had to wait years for a wheelchair ramp to be installed at his department—not much to ask to help one of the finest minds in the world into the building. The department would do no more, it said, because there was no demand. "This is a self-fulfilling prophecy," said Hawking through his voice synthesizer. "If they don't provide facilities for the disabled, there won't be any disabled for whom they have to provide facilities."

The campaign hopes to raise £615,000 (\$1.05 million) to convert a disused hospital into residential and medical care facilities for handicapped students.