behind the proposal for a gasoline tax to reduce the national debt, this sum represents only a small contribution.

Now, suppose that Congress were to increase the tax by 50¢ per gallon. This would increase the transportation cost by 5% from 45.77¢ to 48.07¢ per mile. However, based on 120 billion gallons of gasoline consumption per year, the increased tax of 50¢ would bring in $60 billion toward debt reduction.

It should be recalled that Ross Perot suggested some time ago that a 50¢ per gallon tax increase would not be too large. The basic question is, How serious is the American public in truly wishing to cut the debt? If it is truly serious, it should accept the concept of total transportation cost per mile as a meaningful guideline in the decision process. Should the decision be positive, the public should insist that the $60 billion go only for debt reduction and that "the fox be kept out of the chicken coop."

Vladimir Haensel
Department of Chemical Engineering,
University of Massachusetts,
Amherst, MA 01003

References and Notes

1. *Motor Vehicles Facts and Figures* (Motor Vehicles Manufacturers Association, Detroit, MI, 1992), p. 51.
2. *Highway Statistics 1991* (PB93-132520, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC, 1993), table VM-1.
3. *Nat. Petrol. News* (mid-June 1993), p. 172.
4. I am appreciative to Else M. Boland of UOP Inc., Des Plaines, IL, for providing much of the data.

■

Megaproject Support

Contrary to the article by Faye Flam about the Advanced Neutron Source (ANS) (News & Comment, 23 July, p. 420), I am *not* opposed to the construction of this nuclear reactor. Indeed, I served as a consultant on the 1984 Seitz-Eastman Committee that recommended the ANS as the second highest priority (behind the 6-GeV synchrotron) for materials science facilities. I concurred with that judgment and think it is unfortunate that progress has been so slow on a project of such importance.

I am, as the article correctly states, flabbergasted by the increase in price. Materials scientists, including myself, have not hesitated to criticize the doubling of the cost estimate for the Supercollider. But the estimated cost of the ANS has gone up tenfold, from $260 million in 1984 to $2.7 billion today.

Finally, my comments were made as a materials scientist and had nothing to do with my role in the American Physical Society.

Robert L. Park
Department of Physics and Astronomy,
University of Maryland,
College Park, MD 20740

■

Recovering Funds

As noted in ScienceScope (4 June, p. 1415), scientist Wasim Siddiqui remains on the payroll of the University of Hawaii at Manoa in the Department of Tropical Medicine after pleading no contest to embezzlement charges. The article states unfairly, however, that university officials have "yet to discipline" the employee for improprieties. The university is handling this matter in accordance with administrative and contractual procedures. Unfortunately, Hawaii state law prohibits us from commenting on the specifics of the case until the matter is fully resolved.

The university has filed a civil action—and placed a lien on Siddiqui's retirement plan—to recover $114,000 in research funds from the U.S. Agency for International Development that were the subject of the criminal charges as well as $250,000 in misappropriated funds. Obviously, the University of Hawaii is interested in speedy resolution of this matter; we will also fulfill our obligation to observe all applicable due process rights.

Paul C. Yuen
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs,
University of Hawaii at Manoa,
2444 Dole Street,
Honolulu, HI 96822

Corrections and Clarifications

An asterisk indicating that she was a corresponding author should have appeared next to Catherine C. Hedrick's name in the list of authors of the report "Atherosclerosis in transgenic mice overexpressing apolipoprotein A-II" by C. H. Warden *et al.* (23 July, p. 469).

In Christopher T. Walsh's Perspective "Vancomycin resistance: Decoding the molecular logic" (16 July, p. 308), it is stated incorrectly that "about 95% of *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates are resistant to the β-lactam methicillin." About 95% of *S. aureus* are resistant to penicillin, but the majority (perhaps 70 to 90%) are still sensitive to methicillin.

The Random Sample item, "Russians, U.S. differ on Arctic sub threat" (25 June, p. 1881) should have said that the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant has dumped 1 million curies of cesium-137 (not plutonium) into the North Sea. The plant has dumped more than 18,000 curies of plutonium.