

and has sponsored the publication of a compendium of state engineering laws for all 48 states, the territories of Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.

The national society publishes a monthly newsletter, a legislative bulletin, and a magazine, the *American Engineer*. In addition, a number of booklets and other printed materials related to society policy statements and engineering information are developed from time to time. The affiliated state societies and local chapters also issue various publications containing items of engineering interest in their areas of activity.

The society has recently built its own headquarters building at 2029 K St., NW, in Washington, financed by the purchase of interest-bearing building bonds by the membership.

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News Briefs

■ The Atomic Energy Commission announced on 12 Jan. that preparations are underway for a series of nuclear tests to begin in the spring at the Eniwetok Proving Grounds. One of the purposes of this series will be the further development of methods of defense against nuclear attack.

Air and sea traffic will be notified through normal channels of the details of the control area well in advance of the commencement of operations. Operations will be conducted by Joint Task Force 7, commanded by Rear Admiral B. Hall Hanlon, USN. Alvin C. Graves, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, is deputy commander for scientific matters.

The forthcoming series of tests will involve weapons generally smaller in yield than those tested during the 1954 test series. It is anticipated that the energy release of the largest test will be substantially below that of the maximum 1954 test.

■ In a release on 9 Dec. from the United States Mission to the United Nations, it was announced that the U.S. had appointed Shields Warren, director of the Cancer Research Institute at New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston as its representative on the new scientific committee on radiation effects. Ambassador Lodge at the same time notified Secretary General Hammarskjöld that the alternate U.S. representatives on the committee would be Austin M. Brues, director of the biology and medical research division of Argonne National Laboratory, and Merril Eisenbud, director of the Health and Safety Laboratory and manager of the New York Op-

erations office of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. The new committee was authorized by the U.N. General Assembly on 3 Dec. when it unanimously approved a resolution setting up a Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation.

Warren was the first director of the AEC Division of Biology and Medicine and is now president of the American Board of Pathology. Brues was a member in 1946 of the Brues-Henshaw Investigating Team sent to study casualties at Hiroshima and Nagasaki; he is president of the Radiation Research Society and past president of the American Association for Cancer Research. Eisenbud, who has been associated with the AEC since 1947, has done work on fallout evaluation, radiological hygiene hazards, and beryllium and uranium poisoning. The laboratory he directs is the headquarters for the AEC's National Monitoring System for analysis and evaluation of fallout resulting from nuclear detonations, and he has also undertaken studies of radiological hazards in the civilian atomic energy industry. Both Brues and Eisenbud were listed among the 183 U.S. technical advisers for the Geneva "atoms-for-peace" conference last August.

The U.N. Scientific Committee will be composed of one scientific representative from each of 15 nations, and it is understood that the first meeting will take place in March of this year. The scientific appointees from other nations are not known at this time.

Scientists in the News

JOHANNES IVERSEN, distinguished Danish ecologist, arrived in the United States in December and will remain until June under a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to encourage the development of pollen analysis here. He is working at the pollen laboratories in the new Willard Gibbs Research Center at Yale University, and is available there for conferences with visitors.

In addition to his profound knowledge of the European Pleistocene, his skill in the critical identification of pollen with modern optical equipment is generously at the service of American palynologists. He is particularly interested in the long Wisconsin and interglacial cores now under study at Yale and at Oberlin, and he expects to attend the pollen conference that is tentatively set for May at the latter institution.

Iversen's plans include an excursion in mid-March to Florida and Texas, and a field trip to the San Augustin Plains in western New Mexico. He has with him films of unusual interest to anthropologists and archeologists that deal with his

research on forest clearance by stone axes and fire for Neolithic agriculture. His mailing address during his visit will be in care of the Yale Conservation Program, New Haven, Conn.—P.B.S.

LEON J. KAMIN, at present a research psychologist at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, has been acquitted of a contempt of Congress charge by Federal Judge Bailey Aldrich in proceedings that took place in Boston, Mass. Kamin, who had testified freely about his former affiliation with the Communist Party, was a research assistant at Harvard University until 1 June 1954. His indictment resulted from his refusal to tell a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Government Operations about former Communist associates "on grounds of conscience."

Judge Aldrich's 24-page decision emphasized that the court failed to accept any of the defendant's contentions that the subcommittee's questioning violated his constitutional rights. The acquittal decision was based on the technicality that the Senate committee had exceeded its authority in its line of investigation.

The judge found that a 1946 legislative reorganization act gave the committee the duty of "studying the operation of Government activities at all levels with a view to determining its economy and efficiency." Aldrich emphasized that Government operation means "the operation of Government departments, not private industry, even though under Government contract." He pointed out that, as established by the Government's own witnesses, the Boston investigation was of "subversion and espionage affecting privately operated defense plants, and this was not within the authority Congress had given the committee."

This decision will undoubtedly have some influence upon the course of the Government's similar contempt proceedings against Wendell H. Furry, associate professor of physics at Harvard University [*Science* 121, 232 (18 Feb. 1955)].

RAYMUND L. ZWEMER, former chief of the Science Division at the Library of Congress, has been appointed head of UNESCO's Division of International Cooperation for Scientific Research, Natural Sciences Department, Paris. He will be responsible for UNESCO's relations with international scientific unions and other organizations concerned with scientific research on an international scale. The appointment was effective on 30 Dec. 1955.

DAVID A. KEYS, one of the two vice presidents of the National Research Council of Canada (scientific) and the scientific adviser to the president of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, re-