

this to the attention of Dr. James R. Killian, Scientific Advisor to the President, Dr. Alan T. Waterman, Director of the National Science Foundation, [and others]. . . .

"The Administration and Congress have declared themselves all out for science and technology and are voting vast sums for research. Yet, the U.S. Geological Survey, one of the oldest and most respected government research organizations, is facing in the next fiscal year beginning July 1 a material decrease in the funds available for its research programs in the mineral resources field.

"Science is not divisible into several exclusive categories because it is a cross-fertilization of many skills. . . . In government, the geological scientists charged with our mineral research efforts are being relegated to the role of 'second rate scientists' along with biologists and other minority groups of scientists who have not benefited from pay increases granted most scientists and engineers. The high morale of geologists in government service is being adversely affected by this discriminatory practice and a general loss of scientific prestige is resulting. . . .

"The American Geological Institute urges that our Nation take positive and immediate steps to correct the current imbalance plaguing the geological scientists and geological research. Our mineral future must be secure if science and technology are to advance."

### El Salvador's Tropical Institute

The Tropical Institute of Scientific Research in San Salvador was established by the University of El Salvador in 1950 to encourage research in the seven faculties of the university—law, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and chemistry, engineering (civil, architectural, agronomic, and electrical-mechanical), economics, and humanities (philosophy, psychology, literature, and languages)—and to provide facilities for the use of visiting scientists desiring to study the tropical environment.

El Salvador is the most densely populated of the five Central American republics, having compressed within its 8600 square miles more than 2 million inhabitants. The country is principally of volcanic origin, with one volcano still active. The volcanic character of the soil contributes to its high fertility. The principal product of the country is coffee, which provides almost 80 percent of the national income. The country's economy is sound. Its monetary unit, the colon, has for 25 years remained at a fixed value of \$0.40 U.S.

The climate of El Salvador ranges from hot in the coastal plains to mod-

erately cool in the highlands. The institute is located in University City on the outskirts of the country's capital, San Salvador. This city, which has a population of more than 200,000 inhabitants, is situated on a plain some 2000 feet above sea level. Its climate is pleasant, with a mean annual temperature of approximately 72°F with extremes of from 46° to 96°F. It is 14° north of the equator and 89° west of the Greenwich meridian.

Almost all of the research conducted by the institute is under the supervision of visiting scientists sent to the country by institutions of learning and research in the United States and Europe. Before a visitor is accepted by the institute, he submits a plan of the type of study he wishes to undertake. If his proposed research is of a nature which will be useful not only to him but to El Salvador, his application is accepted. Board and room are provided without charge at the institute's boarding house, the visitor is given laboratory facilities, transportation, reference materials, and other necessary assistance. Many public and private institutions cooperate with the institute in helping the visitors carry out their research programs. However, if very expensive equipment of limited usefulness is needed, the visitor or his sponsor is asked to provide this as a loan to the institute during the period that the visitor is in residence. When the proposed research requires more than 1 year to complete, the institute pays transportation for the visiting scientist to El Salvador and return and also provides him with \$30 per month for personal expenses. Research assistants are usually Salvadorean high-school graduates interested in research who, by working with the visiting scientists, prepare themselves for research careers or for scholarships abroad.

The principal research conducted by the institute since its foundation has been in the fields of zoology, botany, geology, soil sciences, hydrology, meteorology, archeology, anthropology, economics, tropical medicine, and chemistry. In return for the facilities offered by the institute, visiting scientists are asked to submit complete reports of the studies; if specimens have been collected, the institute expects to receive a complete set of the materials collected, properly classified.

Usually from six to eight visitors are in residence at the institute, although at times the entire capacity of the boarding house (14 visitors in eight guest rooms) has been in use.

Among the works published in book form by visitors of the institute are: *Birds of El Salvador*, by Austin L. Rand and Melvin A. Taylor of the Museum of Natural History, Chicago; *Farinosa of*

*El Salvador*, by Otto Rohweder, University of Hamburg; *Amphibia and Reptiles of El Salvador*, by R. Mertens, Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany. The institute publishes a quarterly, *Comunicaciones del Instituto Tropical de Investigaciones Científicas de la Universidad de El Salvador, C.A.* Much of the research carried on by the visiting scientists is reported in this journal, especially when the reports are not of book length.

The institute is anxious to receive applications from scientists and scientific institutions who desire to carry on tropical research in any scientific field. More detailed information may be secured by writing to the Director General, Instituto Tropical de Investigaciones Científicas, Apartado 740, San Salvador, El Salvador, Central America.

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### Bureau of Standards and National Academy Advisory Program

The National Bureau of Standards and the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council have announced an expanded plan for coordination of the bureau's technical advisory committee program by the Academy—Research Council in cooperation with a number of the major professional scientific societies of the United States. The NBS advisory committee program grew out of the recommendations of a committee appointed by the Secretary of Commerce in 1953. Since that time, advisory committees appointed by various professional scientific societies have helped to keep the bureau informed of the needs of the nation's scientific and technological community and have evaluated the bureau's work in areas of interest to their professions. At the same time they have provided an effective link whereby the scientists and engineers of the country have gained increased awareness of the scientific contributions and services available from the bureau.

The new plan for coordination of these advisory activities by the Academy—Research Council will strengthen the current program by allowing more complete coverage of the bureau's diversified research activities, and by providing for the coordination of recommendations from the various professional interests which the bureau serves.

Under the new arrangement, the scientific societies will nominate representatives from among their membership to serve as advisers to the bureau. From the base provided by these society delegations, the Academy—Research Council will assemble a number of advisory panels, each of which will have respon-

sibility for evaluating a particular segment of the bureau's work. Thus, certain NBS activities—such as building technology, which does not fall within the scope of any one professional society—can now be served by advisory panels staffed from various societies. The panels will report at least once a year on the status of bureau activities under their cognizance. These reports will form the basis for an integrated annual report by the Academy-Research Council to the bureau.

Selection of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council to administer and coordinate the advisory program will insure a broadly-based, independent evaluation of the bureau's work. Since it maintains well-established ties with the professional scientific societies of the country, the Academy-Research Council is uniquely qualified to assist the bureau in this new role.

### International Atomic Energy Agency Has Offers of Contributions

The International Atomic Energy Agency has announced in Vienna that by the end of January 1958 nine member states had officially communicated to it offers of fissionable materials, source materials, radioactive isotopes and special materials for reactors, and fellowships and training facilities for atomic energy programs to be carried out under its auspices. The offers are from Canada, Ceylon, India, Norway, Portugal, the Union of South Africa, the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The prices and conditions on which the materials are to be made available to the agency have yet to be determined. The source materials and fissionable materials will for the present remain under the control of the countries of origin and will be delivered only after agreements have been concluded between the agency and the member states concerned.

Contributions have also been offered to the \$250,000 fellowship fund to which member states were invited by the first General Conference to subscribe. Several member states have at the same time placed at the disposal of the agency fellowships and training facilities to be taken up in the offering countries. In addition, the United States has announced its intention of presenting the agency with the gift of a technical library.

### Proposed Legislation

S 3110. Establish Commission on Establishment of a United States Academy of Science. Potter (R-Mich.). Senate Armed Services.

S 3119. Amend National Science

Foundation Act in order to revise authority to grant scholarships and fellowships under provisions of such act. Mansfield (D-Mont.). Senate Labor and Public Welfare.

HR 10180. Amend National Science Foundation Act of 1950 to encourage training of additional engineers and scientists and expansion of facilities for engineering and science education by providing scholarships and fellowships for engineering and science students. Sikes (D-Fla.). House Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

S 3089. Provide for holding a White House Conference on Aging to be called by President of U.S. before 31 December 1958, to be planned and conducted by Special Staff on Aging of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare with assistance and cooperation of other agencies of that Department and other Departments and agencies represented on Federal Council on Aging; assist several States in conducting similar conferences on aging prior to White House Conference on Aging. McNamara (D-Mich.), Humphrey (D-Minn.). Senate Labor and Public Welfare.

S 3126. Create Department of Science and Technology; establish National Institutes of Scientific Research; authorize program of Federal loans and loan insurance for college or university education in physical or biological sciences, mathematics, or engineering; authorize establishment of scientific programs outside U.S. Humphrey (D-Minn.), McClellan (D-Ark.), Yarborough (D-Tex.). Senate Government Operations.

S 3156. Provide for expansion of certain programs for advance education for teachers in science and for establishment of certain programs for advance education for teachers in the humanities. Flanders (R-Vt.), Bricker (R-Ohio.). Senate Labor and Public Welfare.

S 3157. Establish federal scholarship program in order to assist promising students to obtain college and university undergraduate educations. Flanders (R-Vt.), Bricker (R-Ohio.). Senate Labor and Public Welfare.

S 3179. Authorize federal assistance to states and local communities in financing an expanded program of school construction to eliminate national shortage of classrooms. Kennedy (D-Mass.). Senate Labor and Public Welfare.

S 2938. Amend Internal Revenue Code of 1954 to allow additional income exemption for an individual who is a student at an educational institution above secondary level. Frear (D-Del.). Senate Finance.

S 3180. Establish a U.S. Department of Science and prescribe functions thereof. Kefauver (D-Tenn.). Senate Government Operations.

S 3187. Strengthen national defense,

advance cause of peace, and assure the intellectual pre-eminence of the U.S., especially in science and technology, through programs designed to stimulate their development. Hill (D-Ala.) and 26 other senators.

HR 10278. Encourage and assist in expansion and improvement of educational programs. Kearns (R-Pa.). House Education and Labor.

HR 10290. Amend Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act in order to provide that revenues under provisions of such act be used as grants-in-aid of primary, secondary and higher education. Udall (D-Ariz.). House Judiciary.

HR 10293. Establish a national scientific research reserve fund. Dawson (D-Ill.). House Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

HR 10381. Strengthen national defense, cause of peace, and assure the intellectual pre-eminence of U.S. especially in science and technology, through programs designed to stimulate their development. Elliott (D-Ala.). House Education and Labor.

HR 10404. Amend Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for protection of public health, by prohibiting new food additives which have not been adequately pretested to establish their safe use under conditions of their intended use. Williams (D-Miss.). House Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

HR 10266. Extend for 1 year certain programs established under Domestic Tungsten, Asbestos, Fluorspar, and Columbium-Tantalum Production and Purchase Act of 1956. Aspinall (D-Colo.). House Interior and Insular Affairs.

S 3216. Authorize Federal assistance to States and local communities in financing an expanded program of school construction to eliminate national shortage classrooms. Javits (R-N.Y.). Senate Labor and Public Welfare.

HR 10454. Establish a scholarship program to train scientists and technicians; provide scholarship beneficiaries be obligated to serve in Armed Forces upon completion of their education. O'Konski (R-Wis.). House Education and Labor.

HR 10456. Amend National Science Foundation Act of 1950 in order to provide for certain educational programs. Price (D-Ill.). House Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

HR 10598. Amend title IV of Housing Act of 1950 to authorize loans under college housing loan program for construction of science buildings and libraries at educational institutions. Carrigg (R-Pa.). House Banking and Currency.

S 3281. Amend Housing Act of 1950 to provide for loans to colleges and universities for science equipment and facilities. Thye (R-Minn.). Senate Banking and Currency.

S 3311. Authorize assistance to states