

working closely with the Cannon Committee and, even here, will be able to get unusually fast action if the project is ready to use the money. This remains to be seen.

Minority Opinions

After the nearly straight party-line 10 to 6 vote against the \$107 million authorization, several of the Republicans on the committee were ready to offer privately some more flamboyant reasons than those suggested above for the committee's action.

The most widely published has been a suggestion that the Democrats are toying with the Stanford project to pressure the AEC into going along with the majority's plan to modify the huge Hanford, Washington, plutonium reactor to produce electricity for the federally owned Bonneville Power Administration (the TVA of the Northwest). But Senator Henry Jackson of Washington, leading proponent of this plan, is said to have worked out a private agreement with the AEC on this subject which is satisfactory to him, and even the minority member responsible for this story (an anti-public-power man) does not seem to particularly believe it.

Publicly, although the minority did file a dissenting report, they did not make a particularly strong case against the committee's action, and, in fact, toned down their report from earlier, more critical drafts. Nevertheless, one of the minority, probably Congressman van Zandt, will presumably make a *pro forma* attempt to add the full authorization to the bill by means of a floor amendment.

More realistically, although there is no clear indication that political factors affected the committee's decision, two such factors were present. First, there was some displeasure among the majority that the impetus for the project came from the White House, rather than from within the AEC. The position of the White House on this is that since an unprecedented amount of money is to go into building this machine, a national policy decision was required to decide whether such a project is advisable at this time. Related to this is the safe assumption that it has occurred to the statesmen on the committee that it might not be a bad idea for the final authorization to come in January, when there might be a Democratic administration available to take credit for this momentous project.

Finally, there remains the question of who or what will suffer as a result of the committee's action, and the principal answer seems to be the Stanford scientists. They have repeatedly made the point, more or less endorsed by the AEC, that they will have difficulty holding and adding to the staff of top men assembled at Stanford to run this project. What is more certain is that this delay will cause a considerable amount of anguish among the brilliant group at Stanford who have been working on the project for quite a few years.

The fact that there is 90-percent, even 99-percent, assurance that final authorization will come through next year may be enough to set the scientific community in general at ease. But unforeseen developments can develop. The Stanford group have been working in earnest on this project since 1957, and the planning group was first formally organized 2 years earlier. These men saw authorization slip away at the last minute last year, after it had apparently won approval. They would be considerably less (or more) than human if they were not thoroughly unhappy at the prospect of having to wait another 9 months for their baby to hatch.

United States Launches Two More Satellites

The United States has launched two more space vehicles—the Navy's Transit I-B, a "navigation" satellite that went into an elliptical orbit between 51 degrees north and 51 degrees south latitude on 13 April, and the Air Force's Discoverer XI, which was placed in polar orbit on 15 April.

Transit I-B

The Transit I-B—a 36-inch, 265-pound sphere—is the first of a series of satellites that are expected to revolutionize the present system of navigation. The Transit project is designed to develop a reliable means of fixing the position of surface craft, submarines, and aircraft more precisely than has heretofore been possible, and under any weather conditions at any hour of the day or night. The basic principle involved is the Doppler shift; the phenomenon is demonstrated when signals from a space vehicle vary in frequency in relation to the distance from a ground station. The first Transit satellite will probably stay aloft for approximately 16 months.

In 1962 four navigational satellites are expected to be traveling around the earth in evenly spaced orbits. By tuning in on the satellite signals with special receivers, ships of any nation will be able to establish their positions with precision never before attained.

Responsibility for the establishment of the new navigational system was assigned to the Navy Bureau of Weapons by the Advanced Research Projects Agency. The development of the system is being carried out for the Navy by the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University, Silver Spring, Md., which originated the concepts on which the system is based. Commander W. L. Clark, USN, has responsibility for the Bureau of Naval Weapons, while R. B. Kershner of the Applied Physics Laboratory directs the technical program.

Discoverer XI

The 17-foot Discoverer satellite that was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., carried a 300-pound, bell-shaped instrument capsule that was to have been ejected and retrieved by planes trailing snares as it parachuted down toward the Pacific Ocean near Hawaii. The instrument package separated as scheduled but, because of a malfunction of the devices that were to have slowed it down, it has gone into orbit instead of descending.

This is the seventh Discoverer to be sent into polar orbit, the sixth time that recovery of the instrument packet has been planned, and the 18th United States earth satellite to be placed in orbit.

Leading Scientists Active in New Committee on Economics of Peace

Polykarp Kusch and Seymour E. Harris have been named cochairmen of a newly authorized special Committee on the Economics of Peace of the Democratic Advisory Council. Kusch, winner of the Nobel Prize in physics in 1955, is professor of physics at the Columbia Radiation Laboratory, Columbia University; Harris is Littauer professor of political economy and past chairman of the department of economics, Harvard University. Other committee members are: H. Bentley Glass, professor of biology, Johns Hopkins University; Richard A. Lester, professor of economics, Princeton University;

Isador Lubin, professor of economics, Rutgers University; F. T. McClure, chairman, Research Center, Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University; and Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., professor of history, Harvard University.

Chairmen Release Statement

Cochairmen Kusch and Harris have released a statement that reads in part:

"Just as it is necessary for a nation to prepare for war, so also must a nation prepare for peace. . . . Our Committee's first effort will be to recommend an orderly, and we hope painless shifting of directions of expenditures of many billions of dollars annually from defense production. . . .

"In our study we will consider such opportunities as exist in the peaceful pursuits of the Space Age; opportunities for expanded trade in the world; opportunities for reinaugurating long-delayed resource development, school construction, urban and suburban redevelopment as well as the clearing of rural slums. We shall attempt to apply creative thinking toward the use of all our resources in developing the underdeveloped areas of our own and other countries, which is not only right from a social point of view but which lends itself to the kind of stability which will keep the world at peace.

"We plan to organize our Committee along the lines of the Livermore and Manhattan Projects. Scientists of various skills will work not in separate cubbyholes but together as a team in attacking the problems before them. No one of us is an expert on all the phases of this problem—but as a team we feel qualified to tackle the job. We are choosing for this job physical and biological scientists, economists, historians, and other social scientists and humanists. We will put them together to apply their joint backgrounds and skills to this project, which may prove to be the Number One problem of the new decade."

House Votes Increased Funds for Mental Health; Senate To Act Soon

On 29 March the House of Representatives voted approximately \$80 million for the National Institute of Mental Health during the coming year. This is \$12,300,000 more than the Administration recommended, and it is the largest increase ever voted by the House for

NIMH. The National Committee Against Mental Illness, Washington, D.C., describes the vote as "a dramatic repudiation of the unimaginative fiscal policies of Secretary Flemming and the Bureau of the Budget."

House Committee Recommendations

The House Appropriations Committee recommended an increase of approximately \$4 million in the research grant program. It suggested increased research emphasis upon the problems of aging, mental retardation, alcoholism, and drug addiction, and it underlined its belief in an expanded psychopharmacology program, as shown in this excerpt from its report:

"Intensive research in psychopharmacology is uncovering new drugs useful in treating mental illness. These include both the tranquilizing agents and a whole series of relatively new drugs which are proving to be especially potent in treating depressed patients. All of these drugs are making it possible to discharge increasing numbers of mental patients from the hospital and to keep them out of the hospital. . . ."

The committee reserved its largest increase—approximately \$6,500,000—for accelerated training programs. The Administration had proposed a sharp cut in this area.

Expansion of the general practitioner program, which the Administration wanted to hold at the present level, was also advocated in the committee report, which states:

"The medical profession has been enthusiastic in its reception of the program for psychiatric training of general practitioners. This program has been in operation for only one and one-half years, and already more than 1,500 physicians are enrolled in various postgraduate courses of psychiatric instruction."

Finally, the committee allocated an extra \$1 million to bring the federal contribution to clinics and other community mental health programs up to \$6 million for the coming year.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor—HEW, under the chairmanship of Representative John Fogarty of Rhode Island, is chiefly responsible for the proposed increase in mental health funds.

Action now moves to the Senate. Secretary Flemming has already requested the Senate Appropriations Committee to reject the House increase for mental health.

Is the Government Losing Some of Its German-Born Rocket Scientists?

There is a rumor that the government is losing some of its rocket scientists to industry. The Belock Instrument Corp., New York, announced recently that it will set up the Astro-Space Electronic Corp. at Huntsville, Ala., with a team of German-born scientists headed by Frederick K. Mueller, former deputy director of the guidance and control laboratory of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, Huntsville.

An Associated Press article reports that specialists from Germany now on the staff of the government rocket project at Huntsville are resigning to join Belock. Estimates of the number leaving range from two to 15. The latter figure was offered as a possibility by *Missiles and Rockets*, a trade journal.

The rocket organization at Huntsville, headed by Wernher von Braun, is to be transferred from the Army to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, as of 1 July. The Belock announcement said that Mueller and the supervising staff that will work with him had been associated with rocketry development under Von Braun since the early stages in Germany.

A NASA officer commented that, as of 1 April, officials in Washington had knowledge of only three resignations. This figure was confirmed by a staff member in Huntsville. When asked specifically about the *Missiles and Rockets* suggestion that as many as 15 men are planning to resign, the Huntsville spokesman said: "There is no basis to that statement."

Plasma Physics in Denmark

The Danish Atomic Energy Commission has announced an international course in plasma physics that is to be held at its research establishment in Risø, 1–12 August. The scientific director of the course will be Marshall N. Rosenbluth, General Atomic, San Diego, Calif. Lecturers will include R. J. Bickerton and W. B. Thompson, United Kingdom; H. C. Brinkman, the Netherlands; P. Hubert, France; R. Lüst and A. Schlüter, Federal Republic of Germany; and E. A. Frieman, C. B. Wharton, R. F. Post, and A. Simon, United States. Applications to attend the course should reach the Danish AEC, Research Establishment Risø, Roskilde, Denmark, before 15 June.