RCA's position was supported by the late Representative William Green, Jr., (D–Pa.), whose Philadelphia constituency bordered on the Camden, N.J., plant where RCA production of electron microscopes is concentrated. Largely through Green's efforts, the Ways and Means Committee, in February 1963, voted to restore the tariff. Somewhat unexpectedly, the commitee's action was opposed by Representative Abner Sibal (R–Conn.), whose district is also the home of the Perkin-Elmer Corporaton. Among the activities of Perkin-Elmer is the importation for domestic sale of the Japanese electron microscope the Hitachi HU-11, and Perkin-Elmer lobbied extensively against the RCA-favored bill.

Sibal's opposition combined with the general lack of a sense of urgency to produce a long delay between the committee's approval of the bill and consideration of the bill by the whole House. In December 1963 Representative Green died and the issue was even quieter than before until it was brought up again last month by Representative William Cahill (R–N.J.), who represents Camden, and Green's son, also named William, who was elected last April to fill his father's unexpired term. After apologizing for launching his career with "a matter so uncolorful," Green said, "This bill is no more or less important than the continued production of electron microscopes in this country." The main theme of Green's remarks was that if the foreign microscopes continued to be imported duty-free by nonprofit organizations, "it will ultimately force American manufacturers of this most important scientific item to discontinue production."

The extent of the real threat to RCA, the nation's 24th largest corporation, is difficult to measure. Figures about the actual numbers of electron microscopes sold in this country appear to be regarded as commercial secrets and are not available, but the market is known to be a restricted one. In 1962, for example, (the last year for which an estimate is available from industy sources) the number of microscopes sold is estimated to have been 226 and there is no reason to think the market has expanded dramatically since then. Somewhere in the vicinity of 75 percent of all sales are thought to be to nonprofit institutions. In 1962 the largest share of the market went to Hitachi, with RCA a close second, selling an estimated 80 instruments. Electron microscopes probably accounted for somewhat less than $3 million of RCA's 1962 sales of $1.75 billion. According to RCA's congressional defenders, the corporation's sales dropped 25 percent in 1963 as its foreign competitors pressed their price advantage in attracting the nonprofit purchasers.

Just what the "price advantage" is is made obscure by the fact that RCA's price rose considerably sometime in the last year, apparently because of improvements in the instrument's design. Another complication is that since the instruments do not have identical features, their prices are not strictly comparable. Nonetheless, according to the figures supplied by Representative Cahill (see Table 1), RCA's current price is $36,725. But a year and a half ago it was listed as $29,030. If RCA was substantially underselling foreign competitors even when their instruments were not taxed, it is difficult to attribute the company's sales decline to the tariff removal alone. Even at the higher prices listed in the chart, RCA still undersells the manufacturers of two of the nontaxed imported microscopes; the other imported instruments are considerably less costly. The theory that the price tag is what governs sales of electron microscopes makes it difficult to explain, for example, why Phillips is still in business.

While there may be a few small institutions which will not be able to purchase the foreign microscopes made more costly by the tariff, the majority will undoubtedly continue to select their instruments on the basis of factors other than cost. For the most part they will be free to do so because a substantial portion of the funds used by nonprofit institutions for the purchase of electron microscopes comes, directly or indirectly, from federal grants. By passing the tariff bill, Congress would thus be committing itself to raising, perhaps by several hundred thousand dollars, the cost of the federal investment in science. If, for example, the government paid the bills for 110 microscopes imported by nonprofit institutions in 1965, at an average tariff of $5000 apiece, the added cost would be $550,000.

At the moment, the tariff bill (H.R. 2874) has an uncertain future. The bill has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee, but whether the committee will find time to consider it, in the press of end-of-the-session business, is unclear. If it does, it appears likely that the departments of State, Defense, Labor, and Health, Education, and Welfare, as well as private firms connected with importation of the foreign microscopes, will seek an opportunity to file objections. Once before, however, at the close of the 87th Congress, the bill passed the House and died in the Senate without a hearing, and there is a good chance that this will occur again.—ELINOR LANGER

Congress Plays Geography: PHS Health Center Delayed Again as Maryland Site Is Firmly Excluded

Slowly, and with a certain originality, the Congress is inching its way toward the solution of the troublesome problem of where to locate the proposed Environmental Health Center.

This year the House Appropriations Committee disallowed the request of the Public Health Service for $1.5 million for planning, complaining that 4 years after its first request the PHS was still "not able to tell the Committee where the facility or facilities would be located," and that "the Committee was presented with a considerable amount of confused and indecisive information." The Senate Appropriations Committee was more benevolent, and voted to restore the funds, a decision narrowly sustained by the Senate vote of 40 to 35.

The Senate was partly influenced by Robert Byrd (D–W.Va.), floor manager of the bill, who after several years as the chief antagonist of the PHS's view that the Center had to be located in the Washington area, suddenly withdrew his opposition. Byrd said he had come to feel that further delay in building the facility would be detrimental to the health of the American people.

Byrd's decision, which meant, in effect, his acceptance of the Beltsville, Maryland, site that the PHS has been pushing, was of little use. Last week, in the House-Senate conference to adjust differences between the two appropriations bills, the House conferees agreed to restore part of the funds ($1 million), but with the stipulation that the Center be located outside a 50-mile radius centering on Washington. This excludes Beltsville, a Washington satellite, although it puts Senator Byrd's favorite site—Martinsburg, West Virginia—back in the race.

It thus appears that the PHS will have another year in which to agonize, and that the competition—which includes energetic pressure from representatives of West Virginia, Ohio, and North Carolina and only slightly less

activity on behalf of nearly every other state in the Union—is still open. The conference decision, certain to be approved by both Houses, also raises the possibility that Congress has at last found a formula for making this controversial decision—elimination: this year, "not Beltsville"; next year, "not Martinsburg"; and so on. It may not be good government, but what a lovely parlor game.—E.L.

Announcements

The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey has announced the discovery of an **undersea mountain** in the Pacific Ocean, about 175 miles south of Wake Island. The seamount, yet to be named, was discovered in July by the C&GS ship *Pioneer*, during a scientific expedition to the Indian Ocean. Its recorded height was 14,130 feet, and it lay 3800 feet below the surface of the sea. Robert S. Dietz, a C&GS oceanographer on the expedition, said that the seamount was formerly an island which probably sank about 50 million years ago.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

The National Science Foundation has announced that **political science** will be among the scientific disciplines eligible for fellowship support, beginning with the 1965–1966 academic year. Other disciplines receiving fellowship support are the mathematical, physical, medical, biological, and engineering sciences, anthropology, economics, geography, history and philosophy of science, linguistics, psychology, and sociology. Applications are now available for fellowships for study leading to the master's and the doctorate degrees. Deadline: *2 November*. (Fellowships Section, Division of Scientific Personnel and Education, National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C. 20550)

The American Society for Clinical Nutrition has announced a new award, for "distinctive research in the area of **clinical nutrition**." The prize, sponsored by the National Dairy Council, honors Elmer V. McCollum, professor emeritus of biochemistry at Johns Hopkins University, discoverer of vitamin A. It will consist of a scroll and $1000 honorarium, to be presented to U.S. scientists primarily for publication of specific papers over the previous 5 years. Deadline for applications: *1 February*. (J. F. Mueller, Brooklyn-Cumberland Medical Center, 121 DeKalb Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201)

The Glorney-Raisbeck fellowship in the **medical sciences** is available from the New York Academy of Medicine. The $7500 fellowship is open to M.D.'s from New York and nearby states, for a year's research and/or study in any area of medicine or the allied sciences. It is renewable for an additional 2 years. Deadline for receipt of applications: *1 November*. (A. C. McGuinness, Committee on Medical Education, New York Academy of Medicine, 2 E. 103 St., New York 29)

Scientists in the News

St. Louis University has appointed **Morton M. Weber** director of the department of microbiology. He has been a microbiology professor at the school.

Martin D. Young, recently retired as associate director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH, has become director of the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory, Panama. He succeeds **Carl M. Johnson**, who has been named director emeritus.

Stauffer Chemical Company, Richmond, California, has appointed **Gerald Brody** head of animal health research. He has been head of parasitology research with Moorman Manufacturing Company, Quincy, Illinois.

Wallace O. Fenn, a professor in the University of Rochester medical school, has been named to receive the 1964 Daniel and Florence Guggenheim award from the International Academy of Astronautics.

The Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn has appointed **James J. Conti** head of the department of chemical engineering. He is an associate professor at the school.

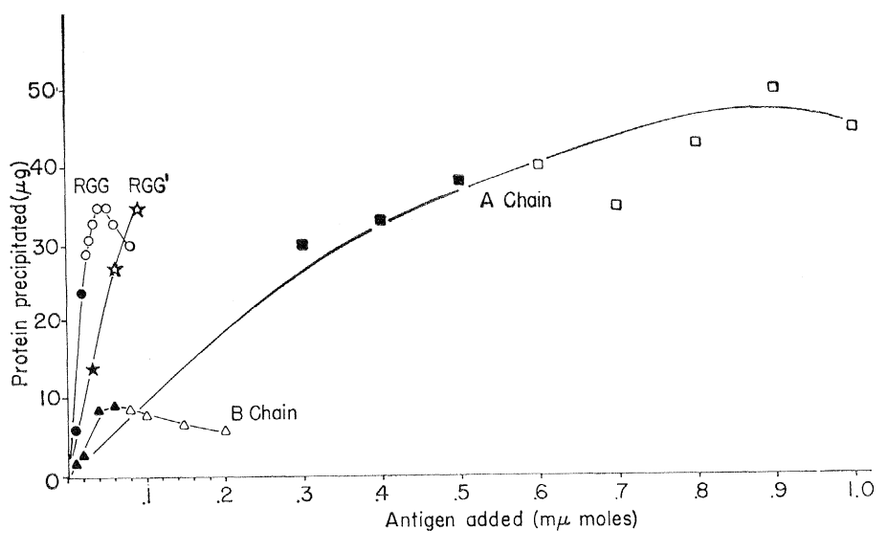
Asher A. Hyatt, formerly at Monsanto Research Corporation, has become head of the chemical research group at Collaborative Research, Inc., Waltham, Massachusetts.

Frederick L. Stone, chief of the division of research facilities and resources at NIH, has been named director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

Norman J. Gillette, of the department of bacteriology and botany at Syracuse University, has been appointed professor of biology at the State University of New York, Oswego.

Erich Baer, of the University of Toronto, has received the first annual American Oil Chemists' Society award for work in lipid chemistry research, and an honorarium of $2500.

The new editor of the Bulletin of the Parenteral Drug Association is **Robert E. King**, professor of industrial pharmacy at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science.



Erratum: Data were missing and incorrectly presented in Fig. 1 of the report "Allotypic specificities of A- and B-chains of rabbit gamma globulin" by G. W. Stemke (24 July, p. 404). The corrected figure is shown above.