

initiated by the elected representatives of the people in fifty states."

Perhaps the major point in Conant's argument is that laymen be brought actively into the planning process. What Conant is saying, to paraphrase Clemenceau on war and the generals, is that education is too important to be left to the educators.

A precedent for what Conant recommends can be found in the participation of university scientists, mathematicians, and other scholars in the curriculum reform movement after many years of noninvolvement.

But Conant is calling for changes which are no less than revolutionary, and, while change is continuous in American education, revolution is very rare. Chief obstacles to his program are these: first, he advocates the breakup of the alliances between legislatures and education establishments which both sides in many states find convenient and comfortable; second, this new brand of policy making is likeliest to offend the people who will have to carry out the new policies.

Whatever the long-range effect of Conant's book as a revolutionary manifesto (and his influence is considerable), *Shaping Educational Policy* is, in the short run, an excellent handbook for interested citizens to use for background on the problems which will face the new Congress and the many state legislatures which meet after the first of the year.—JOHN WALSH

Johnson Cabinet: Drug Executive, Former Counsel to OSRD and ONR, Will Be Secretary of Commerce

On 15 December, President Johnson announced the appointment of John T. Connor, president of Merck & Co., Inc., a major U.S. ethical drug firm, to succeed Luther Hodges as Secretary of Commerce.

Connor, who describes himself as a "liberal businessman," attracted attention late last year when he played a leading role in the formation of the National Independent Committee for Johnson-Humphrey, a bipartisan association of top business executives who supported the Democratic ticket. The largely Republican drug industry, haunted by the ghost of Democratic Kefauver, was amazed by this action, particularly because Merck was one of the companies used as an example by the Kefauver investigators in 1959-60. But

though Connor suffered several unpleasant moments as Kefauver probed into the prices and the advertising claims of some of his company's products, he was one of the few industry executives who ultimately announced themselves in favor of government regulation.

If industry's reaction to Connor's role in the campaign was incredulous, it was also restrained. The same cannot be said for various physicians throughout the country who regarded his efforts to elect a Democrat as so perfidious that, for a while, they made sporadic attempts to organize a boycott of Merck products.

Pharmaceutical reaction to Connor's appointment is one of jubilation. As Secretary of Commerce, Connor will have jurisdiction over one major area of interest to the drug houses, the Patent Office, and over certain other activities, such as overseas sales. Commerce has no authority over the licensing of drugs for domestic sale, over evaluation of drug safety and efficacy, or over drug advertising. All these activities are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Apart from his links with the pharmaceutical industry, Connor, a lawyer with a B.A. from Syracuse and a law degree from Harvard, has also been associated with several government scientific enterprises. During World War II he was general counsel to the Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD), the agency which led the government into its still-growing involvement with science, and became closely associated with OSRD chief Vannevar Bush. After the war he became counsel to the Office of Naval Research and later was special assistant to Navy Secretary James Forrestal. In 1947 Connor joined Merck as general attorney, holding several executive offices until he became president in 1955. Partly at Connor's urging, Vannevar Bush also became associated with the firm, first as a director (in 1949), then, from 1957 until his retirement in 1962, as Chairman of the Board. It is felt in Washington that Connor's long connections with scientific activities will make him a sympathetic and knowledgeable administrator of the many scientific enterprises of the Department of Commerce. These include the Weather Bureau, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the National Bureau of Standards, the Bureau of the Census, and the Patent Office.

—ELINOR LANGER

Announcements

The University of Saskatchewan has officially opened its new **Linear Accelerator Laboratory**. The Laboratory contains a linear electron accelerator with 140 Mev maximum unloaded energy, and a mean current of 200 microamperes at 100 Mev. L. Katz is the Laboratory's director.

The Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, has announced the establishment of a **Center for the Study of Information Processing**, financed by a contract of over \$3 million from the Advanced Research Projects Agency of the Department of Defense. The Institute is directed by Alan Perlis.

The **American Council on Education**, Washington, D.C., has announced the establishment of a training program for college administrators. Financed by a 5-year \$4,750,000 grant from the Ford Foundation, the program will provide "on the job" and related educational experiences to prospective administrators. ACE plans to request presidents of colleges and universities to nominate prospects for the program; participants will receive stipends equal to their current salary, and travel and moving allowances for their families. The project will be directed by Lanier Cox, on leave from his position as vice-chancellor of the University of Texas. (ACE, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036)

Meeting Notes

The **American Mathematical Society's** annual meeting will be held 26-30 January, in Denver. The Society will meet in conjunction with the Mathematical Association of America (28-30 January), the Association for Symbolic Logic (27 January), and a regional meeting of the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics (30 January). Areas to be covered include differential geometry, differential topology, function algebras, ordinary differential equations, and rings of operators and group representations. D. H. Lehmer, professor at the University of California, Berkeley, will deliver the 38th Josiah Willard Gibbs Lecture on 26 January. (AMS, 190 Hope Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02906)