

Americans and all humanity. This threat is very real and concrete in the present instance.

An additional factor which influenced his decision, Stamler said recently, was a belief that the particular projects in which he is engaged might have suffered had the committee been given an opportunity to put the spotlight on the federal and other public institutions that support his work.

Some might disagree with Stamler's conclusion that HUAC threatens science, either in general or in his particular case. Federal agencies have withstood similar sniping in the past, and the city of Chicago has indicated that it intends to continue its support. Nonetheless, although it is too early to judge how far it will spread, the Stamler case seems to be arousing substantial interest in the academic community. A Legal Aid Fund has been established to help pay the legal costs, which, it is expected, may rise to the neighborhood of \$50,000. The chairman of the fund is Paul Dudley White of Boston, and the treasurer is Robert W. Wissler, professor and chairman of the Department of Pathology at the University of Chicago. Mailings sent out by two independent groups of physicians and scientists in the Midwest have already brought in over \$10,000 in contributions. In addition, a committee of well-known scientists and other academicians is in the process of formation, not only to support Stamler but to lead

in the exploration and exposition of the constitutional principles that his case against HUAC poses.

—ELINOR LANGER

Announcements

The **Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society** was formed recently at a meeting in Maryland. The group's aims included helping new planetariums and new planetarium teachers, primarily with curriculum materials; providing boards of education which are planning a planetarium with recommendations on construction; and acquainting its members with curriculum material at all grade levels. Additional information may be obtained from the chairman, Margaret K. Noble, of the D.C. Planetarium, Cardozo High School, Washington, D.C. 20009.

The American Institute of Biological Sciences has announced the establishment of the **BioInstrumentation Advisory Council** (BIAC). The council's purpose is to "facilitate directed information flow between biological and physical scientists," according to John R. Olive, AIBS executive director. It will evaluate instrumental and experimental techniques developed by engineers and physicists; perform surveys, and publish instrumentation information for biologists; and undertake projects designed to improve interdisciplinary research efforts in the two areas and to educate scientists in bioinstrumentation.

An organizational meeting of ten selected members will be held 19 August during the AIBS meeting in Urbana, Illinois.

Lloyd E. Slater, formerly associate director of research at Case Institute of Technology is resident executive secretary of BIAC. He will continue at Case as a senior research associate in the Engineering Design Center. Headquarters for the council will be at AIBS, 3900 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington.

The **Universities Research Association, Inc.**, was formed last month at a meeting of university presidents at the National Academy of Sciences. The corporation will offer its services to the federal government as manager of a proposed high-energy proton accelerator (*Science* 18 June, page 1573), if Congress approves its construction. The group will function as a "Council of Presidents," with each member institution represented by its chief executive. Its operations will be managed by a board of trustees composed of six members-at-large and 15 elected from nominees of the member institutions. Temporary trustees include the following university presidents: Detlev W. Bronk, Rockefeller; Robert F. Goheen, Princeton; Fred H. Harrington, Wisconsin; Grayson Kirk, Columbia; Joseph R. Smiley, Colorado; Elvis J. Stahr, Jr., Indiana; H. Guyford Stever, Carnegie; and John C. Warner, former president of Carnegie, who has headed the organizing committee.

REPORT FROM EUROPE

Decisions on Nuclear Power

London. Crucial decisions for the world's nuclear power industry have been occurring in Europe.

Britain has chosen its own advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) as the first of a group of power reactors which are scheduled to be completed between 1970 and 1975. When the choice was announced in May, it was said that gas-cooled reactors of the type selected would deliver electricity in Britain more cheaply than American-designed reactors offered by British builders, and more cheaply than the most modern coal-fired stations now on order.

Reinforcing the impact of the British decision was increasing confidence in France that French-developed reactors of the graphite-gas type, fueled with natural uranium, would, before the end of the decade, deliver electricity at a cost competitive with that for electricity from fossil fuels.

Another decision seems to ensure that cooperation on the development of atomic power among the six nations of the Common Market (West Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg) will endure. The members of the European

Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) had been quarreling for more than a year about a revision of the agency's 1963-67 research program. Ministers of the six nations have finally agreed on a program which de-emphasizes work on reactor designs already developed and focuses Euratom's research on the future. Thus, spending for studies of the two reactor designs approaching competitiveness with conventional energy sources would be reduced, and spending on thermonuclear fusion, fast reactors, and a heavy-water-moderated, organic-cooled reactor called Orgel would be increased.

The author, Victor K. McElheny, is European correspondent for *Science*. He will report frequently on important scientific installations and developments. Mr. McElheny has been a science news reporter for the *Charlotte Observer*, a Nieman fellow at Harvard, and recently was associated with the Swedish-American News Bureau in Stockholm. His address is Flat 3, 18 Kensington Court Place, London W.8, England. Telephone: Western 5360.