

posol, transportation, crime control, and information services. The California studies, he said, had "demonstrated compellingly that the concept of systems analysis could in fact be applied creatively to social problems."

The Republican congressmen and senators sponsoring the systems management bill are, ideologically speaking, a heterogeneous lot. Representative F. Bradford Morse of Massachusetts, a prime mover behind the legislation, belongs among the moderate-to-liberal Republicans. But the sponsors include a number who are distinctly conservative, among them Senator John G. Tower of Texas. According to Morse, advocacy of an industry-managed systems approach to solving social problems is likely to become a major Republican theme. Morse says that, while the Republican minority leader, Representative Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, is not among the 44 sponsors of the legislation, he is interested in it.

With Democrats in control of Congress and the Administration, Republican legislative proposals seldom follow a charmed course, however. The principal effect of the Republicans' systems management proposal may be to encourage the administration to come forward next year with a proposal of its own, perhaps by adopting the Nelson bill or some variation of it. In fact, even prior to the Republican initiative, some administration planners were considering the possibility of such a step. "This has not been high on our agenda, but it's an idea which has been percolating," one official said.

The administration is still in the painful process of having all government departments and agencies adopt the integrated system of analysis, program planning, and budgeting which Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and his former comptroller, Charles J. Hitch, instituted at the Pentagon in 1961. One qualified observer within the administration reports that adoption of the new methods is well under way but that several years must pass before they become part of the bureaucratic way of life.

This view is supported by a high official who says that the secretary of his department has been chary about accepting systems analysis and mathematical model studies as basic tools in making assessments and decisions in some vital areas of national policy. Moreover, the official says it has taken him 18 months just to persuade one of

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **SPACE COOPERATION:** The meteorological "hot line" between Washington and Moscow began functioning, the way it was planned, for the first time last month, when the Russians—unannounced—began transmitting weather data from their satellite Cosmos 122, launched 25 June. The Russian step represents a first move toward implementing standing bilateral agreements for cooperation in weather prediction. The agreements, signed in 1963 and expanded in 1964, were designed to bring about extensive cooperation, including joint planning and coordinated launching of weather satellites, but have thus far remained largely inactive. (*Science*, 12 April 1963; 8 July 1966). The weather line, established in 1964, has so far been used by both sides only for transmission of data acquired by conventional means, although U.S. satellite data have been available to the Russians through a daily worldwide weather report broadcast from Washington. U.S. officials, tied to a rigidly tit-for-tat policy in exchanges with the Russians, hope the new move will be the occasion for arranging the regular exchange of satellite data on a basis of equality.

● **MEDICAL COSTS:** President Johnson has directed HEW Secretary John Gardner to begin a major study of rising medical costs, following newspaper reports that some doctors have raised their fees for patients over 65 as much as 300 percent since Medicare went into effect 1 July. The purpose of the study, which will be run by HEW in cooperation with the Labor Department, the President's Council of Economic Advisers, and other federal agencies, is chiefly to investigate the facts; remedies will be considered later. The investigation will cover not only doctors' fees but also hospital charges, the cost of medicines, and other related medical expenses. The cost of these services, Gardner reported last week, has risen by 3.4 percent during the last 6 months.

● **FINALE OF MOHOLE:** NSF is bringing work on Project Mohole to a halt, following a Senate decision to go along with the House on cutting off funds for the deep-drilling program

(*Science*, 26 August). Some dozen subcontracts that are nearly completed, including several on positioning systems, will be allowed to run their course. All other work, including construction of the drilling platform at the National Steel and Shipbuilding Co., San Diego, has been ordered to stop. Before the cutoff date, NSF had contracted to spend about \$55 million and had actually laid out about \$38 million. Cancellation clauses in the contracts will enable it to recover some of the difference, but just how much is not certain.

● **JET AIRCRAFT NOISE:** New York congressmen, who obviously had been hearing plenty from constituents about jet noise, sought unsuccessfully last week to have an Office of Aircraft Noise Control and Abatement created within the proposed Department of Transportation. The office would have supervised research and development work and established abatement and control regulations. The New Yorkers would have provided for the office by amending the Department of Transportation bill, before its passage by the House. The amendment was rejected, however, partly because of objections that a reorganization bill should not create new government functions.

● **OCEANOGRAPHY:** The new Cabinet-level National Council on Marine Resources and Engineering Development, which held its first meeting on 17 August, will not displace the existing Interagency Committee on Oceanography. ICO ordinarily will report to the new council, not to the Federal Council on Science and Technology, as in the past. The council has been instructed by President Johnson to have its initial legislative recommendations ready by next January. Vice President Humphrey, chairman of the council, has observed that the new organization's role will differ from that of the National Aeronautics and Space Council, which he also heads, because there is no NASA in the marine resources field. Edward Wenk Jr., the council's executive secretary, is taking an 18-month leave from the Library of Congress's Legislative Reference Service, where he is chief of the Science Policy Research Division.