

1964 under Representative Emilio Q. Daddario of Connecticut, in its current effort to push the National Science Foundation into a science-policy leadership role that NSF has eschewed. But the Daddario subcommittee, though widely respected, is far from being the recognized overseer of government research policy. That a Senate committee on science and astronautics would have greater influence on government science policy than the Daddario group has had seems unlikely. Indeed, most senators are neither as willing nor as able as their colleagues in the House to devote themselves meticulously to subcommittee work.

Congress seems to have no choice but to depend on the administration to set research priorities and to come forward with properly balanced scientific programs. As Don Price observes in *The Scientific Estate*, the Executive Office of the President is the best place to try to achieve a comprehensive and objective review of program proposals and alternatives. There, the Bureau of the Budget and the Office of Science and Technology collaborate on program appraisals in an atmosphere which, in theory at least, is free from outside pressures and is pervaded by a spirit of loyalty to the President and his goals.

Nearly all the recommendations of the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress for realigning committee jurisdictions in the science field probably will be contested, and their adoption by the House and Senate is very much in doubt. Opposition can arise within a committee that would gain jurisdiction as well as within one that would lose jurisdiction. For example, Senator Magnuson, a popular and influential member of the Senate establishment, is a high-ranking member of the Aeronautics and Space Committee. The chairman of this committee, Senator Clinton P. Anderson of New Mexico, who is yet to react visibly to the Joint Committee's proposals, may find his relations with Magnuson awkward if he does seek to have his committee's jurisdiction broadened.

The Joint Committee professes to entertain the hope that its recommendations will be adopted at the present session of Congress. This seems scarcely realistic, however, in view of the fact that the session is far advanced, the backlog of unfinished legislative work is considerable, and the pressures for adjournment in an election year are immense.

Although the fate of the proposed

realignment of committee jurisdictions is highly uncertain, there seems no reason why a number of the Joint Committee's other recommendations cannot be adopted before the end of the next session of Congress. Generally, these other proposals, such as the one to break up the popular "Tuesday to Thursday club" and put Congress on a 5-day work week, would amount to not much more than squirting oil in the congressional bearings. However, one recommendation that might well be accepted calls for the establishment of a permanent Joint Committee on Congressional Operations, which could study the need for more far-reaching reforms.

If this body should be created, one piece of advice it should consider is that which Charles L. Schultz, director of the Bureau of the Budget, gave the Monroney-Madden committee. He said, in effect, that many legislative committees of Congress are spending so much time on highly detailed annual authorization bills that they neglect broad policy issues and questions of major program alternatives that they might be considering.

Schultz said that, 20 years ago, 95 percent of all programs, with the exception of one-time items such as construction projects, were authorized for a long or indefinite period. Now about one-third of the annual budget is subject to reauthorizing legislation before the appropriations committees can begin considering it. For example, the House and Senate Armed Services committees now require the Pentagon to obtain specific annual authorization for purchases of much of its hardware, such as ships, aircraft, and tanks, and for the research and development on this equipment. (The annual reauthorization process has contributed to the long delay in getting this year's appropriations bills through Congress. Though it is 10 weeks since the start of the new fiscal year, seven of the 12 major appropriations measures are yet to be passed. The federal agencies concerned are not left without new funds, but their spending must not exceed levels established by the previous budget.)

It seems entirely possible that, instead of looking to realignments of committee jurisdictions, Congress might gain more in legislative effectiveness by calling out into the open those of its committees that are now often wandering in a forest of legislative detail.—LUTHER J. CARTER

Announcements

A report entitled "Opportunities for Postdoctoral Research in Biochemistry in Japan," prepared under the auspices of the National Science Foundation, was released this month. Copies are available on request from the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Science Program, NSF, Washington, D.C. 20550.

The International Conference on **Water for Peace** will be held in Washington 23-31 May, under the aegis of the State Department. Papers are being solicited on several categories of water programs: planning and development, basic data, technology and research needs, education and training, organizing, economics, and financing. About 500 papers will be accepted, a maximum of 100 from the United States. Abstracts of not more than two pages, single-spaced, are required by 1 November; notifications of acceptance will be sent by 15 November. Additional information is available from Richard C. Hagan, secretary general of the conference, Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

The **National Institutes of Health** closed their London office as of 12 September, as part of an effort to consolidate NIH activities for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. The research grant, fellowship, and other NIH programs in areas covered by the London office will continue as before, but with administrative responsibility centered in the European office in Paris. Correspondence should now be addressed to Peter Condliffe, chief of the European Office, NIH, 2 Avenue Gabriel, Paris 8.

Recent Deaths

Vernon H. Cheldelin, 50; director of the Science Research Institute, Oregon State University; 23 August.

Robert Burgette Johnson, 44; chairman of the social studies department at Wilberforce University; 23 August.

Carlos Martinez, 52; professor of physiology and director of the oncology laboratory at the University of Minnesota; 24 August.

S. Marx White, retired chairman of the department of medicine at the University of Minnesota medical school; 28 August.

Howard E. Wilson, 64; dean of the school of education of U.C.L.A.; 12 August.