

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ● GROUP PRACTICE FACILITIES:

Included in the new Demonstration Cities Act is authorization for the government to insure mortgages on facilities for group practice in medicine, dentistry, and optometry. The issue was handled by the Banking and Commerce Committee in an attempt to dig it up from burial in the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee.

Federal insurance on mortgages for 90 percent of construction and equipment costs is guaranteed for sums up to \$5 million at interest rates not higher than 6 percent and maturity not to exceed 25 years, if the applicant satisfies the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development that he is unable to obtain a loan without government insurance.

In House hearings, the American Medical Association's biggest complaint was that the original bill, although it stated that private groups could be mortgagors, gave priority to public, nonprofit organizations. The AMA said this would favor "closed panel" group practices (in which a nonmedical group, such as a union, owns the medical services for its membership) over medically owned group practice.

The final act states that the mortgagor must be a private, nonprofit organization, but a profit group may enter into agreement with such an organization for use of the insured facilities.

### ● CONGRESSIONAL SCIENCE ADVISORS:

The Legislative Reference Service's Science Policy Division, which has been receiving favorable notices for its studies of government science policy and activity, is under new management. Theodore M. Schad, formerly senior specialist for engineering and public works, recently became the division's acting chief, replacing Edward Wenk, Jr., who has taken an 18-month leave of absence to accept a Presidential appointment as executive secretary of the new National Council on Marine Resources and Engineering Development. That Wenk will, in fact, return to LRS is by no means certain. Interest in establishing a federal marine resources agency has been increasing, and it is not unreasonable to assume that Wenk will be considered for high office in any new agency created. Schad, like

Wenk, has had extensive experience both on Capitol Hill and in the Executive Branch. His engineering training was at Johns Hopkins.

### ● CONTRACTS FORBID POLLUTION:

Two contracts executed last week by which the U.S. government will allow the Southern California Edison Company to use Colorado River water for its Mohave steamplant contained what Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall called a "unique" anti-pollution provision. Udall indicated that henceforth such provisions, requiring effective preventive measures against air and water pollution, will be a standard feature in contracts executed between Interior and users of natural resources under Interior's jurisdiction.

### ● ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION:

Problems of air and water pollution cannot be met within the limits of existing scientific knowledge and technology, the House Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Development has concluded. In a report issued 28 October, the subcommittee, chaired by Emilio Q. Daddario of Connecticut, called for a ten-fold increase over the next 5 years in the commitment of federal funds (now \$30 million per year) for research, development, and demonstration work on pollution problems. The report, which contains a number of other findings and recommendations, is based on an 18-month inquiry. It may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for 20 cents.

### ● JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL:

After receiving the approval of the Massachusetts courts, Harvard University has formally launched the John F. Kennedy School of Government (*Science*, 7 October). The school, which will combine the Graduate School of Public Administration and the Kennedy Institute of Politics, will be built adjoining the Kennedy Library on the banks of the Charles River in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Don K. Price is the dean of the new school, and Richard E. Neustadt serves as director of the Kennedy Institute.

for the Navy in patent matters in which it has an interest and who also keeps tabs on patent law developments in Europe.

The applications division, which until recently was called the Naval Applications Division, is staffed completely by Navy officers with a spread of technical backgrounds. As the name of the division implies, the job of the Navy officers is to keep in touch with developments in NATO navies and in the labs of their civilian contractors. A certain amount of the officers' time is spent on assisting with the administration of U.S. overseas R & D programs. In addition, ONR London officers often act as U.S. observers or members on NATO committees or in other international negotiations.

The main task of the civilians in the Sciences Division is visiting individual scientists and laboratories in Britain and the rest of Western Europe and, less frequently, in the countries of the eastern Mediterranean. Occasionally in recent years, ONR London scientists have gone, on invitation, to Soviet bloc countries.

The operating policy of the ONR men in Europe is the scientific *quid pro quo*. They seek to learn about significant new and unpublished work in European labs. In the course of their travels they provide European scientists with information on new work in the United States which is not yet available in the literature. To do their jobs successfully they obviously must be competent in their own fields. It helps a good deal if, as is the case with many ONR London recruits, they already have professional ties in Europe, or if their reputations have preceded them.

ONR London scientists attend meetings in their own disciplines or related ones, but meeting-hopping is not encouraged. The face-to-face visit with the individual researcher in his laboratory is regarded as more productive. ONR scientists are frequently asked to lecture in their specialties, which indicates a definite sort of acceptance.

Acceptance is a relevant consideration, since ONR's conspicuous tie with the United States Navy might be expected to raise the hackles of European scientists who are anti-American or simply antimilitarist. The fact that most of ONR London's people are university or industry scientists who, after a year or so, will go back where they came from, and who are identified