NEWS IN BRIEF

• **DECLINING PHYSICS ENROLLMENT:** While the demand for physicists in education, research, and industry is increasing, the number and percentage of students enrolling in physics education is decreasing, according to the American Institute of Physics (AIP). In 1960, the number of junior physics majors totaled 1.78 percent of their freshman class, dropping to 1.16 percent in 1965, and projected to fall to 0.76 percent in 1968. The related trends found by the AIP included: the number of undergraduate physics majors has been decreasing during the last 5 years; and the number of physics bachelor's degrees granted peaked in 1962 and has since leveled off. However, the number of physics graduate students, both first-year and total, has increased steadily. (This was attributed to a decreasing undergraduate drop-out rate and an influx of graduate physics students from other areas. However, the supply of new physics bachelors has reached a low enough level to make it impossible for the rate of increase of first-year graduate students to continue.) Possible reasons for diminishing enrollment in physics studies included inadequacy of high school teachers; the complexity of the Physical Science Study Committee program; shift of interest to humanities; and lack of interest in the long-term commitment demanded of physics education. Drop-out reasons during the junior and senior year included difficulty with mathematics, poor college physics teaching, extra requirements for physics study, lack of personal contact between faculty and student, and the popular glamorization of physics failing to emphasize the hard work needed first. These statistics are found in a report, *Physics Manpower 1966 Education and Employment Statistics*, available for $2.50 from the American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45 St., New York 10017.

• **MEDICAL SCHOOL TO INCLUDE HUMANITIES:** A humanities department will be included in the new College of Medicine of Pennsylvania State University at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, scheduled to begin operation next September. The department, according to Dean George T. Harrell, will include faculty in comparative religion, philosophy and ethics, and history of science, and will start with one man in each field. Eventually, Harrell said, he hopes to double the faculty. The humanities will be taught through seminars and lectures interwoven throughout the regular medical school curriculum. The first appointment to the faculty was announced last week. E. A. Vastyan, currently chaplain at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, was named assistant professor of humanities. He will develop the curriculum material and teach comparative religion. He holds a B.A. in English from Denison University, and a B.D. from the Episcopal Theological Seminary, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

• **NEW FDA MAGAZINE**: The Food and Drug Administration began publication this month of a slick, popular-style magazine dealing with drug law enforcement, medical advertising, and other matters in the agency's jurisdiction. Titled *FDA Papers*, the magazine will be issued monthly, except for combined issues July-August and December-January. Subscriptions may be ordered from hte Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, at $5.50 a year ($6.75 for foreign mailing).

• **EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTER**: A new institution for educational research and development, Education Development Center, has been formed by the merger of Educational Services, Inc. (ESI), and the Institute for Educational Innovation.

The new private, nonprofit institution will use the facilities of ESI in Newton, Massachusetts, as its operating nucleus. These include laboratories for curriculum development and a major film and television studio.

Sources of support for the new center include the U.S. Office of Education, the National Science Foundation, the Agency for International Development, and a number of private foundations and industrial concerns.

Franklin Lindsay, president of Itek Corporation will be chairman of the board, and James R. Killian, Jr., chairman of the Corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will be honorary chairman. Arthur L. Singer, Jr., formerly executive associate of the Carnegie Corporation of New York and, since September, president of the ESI, will be president of the new institution.

mittee for $10 million as a down payment toward the ultimate construction cost, variously estimated at from $240 million to $395 million.

Now, there are all sorts of political inflammables in and around the 200-Bev accelerator. The question of whether it should be built was tacitly settled long ago with an informal understanding among the physicists, the Executive branch, and the Congress that a big new machine would be started every 5 or 6 years. But the questions of location and management of the 200-Bev machine were not nailed down in this understanding, and, among some *aficionados* of high-energy fraticide, it was expected that the community might blow itself to bits on these matters. However, as the script unfolded before the Joint Committee, it was apparent that the particle physicists want this machine very much, so very much, in fact, that there now prevails in high-energy physics what must be called the Peace of Seitz—that is, Frederick Seitz, president of the National Academy of Sciences, who, fearful of internecine combat in the community, last year quietly organized a nationwide consortium in which the high-energy physicists now perform with the harmony of a championship drill team.

Comprising 46 universities, ranging from those that possess mighty accelerators to those that are yet to acquire their first marble and inclined board, the consortium, known as University Research Associates (URA), presented itself to the Joint Committee last week as a candidate for managing the construction and operation of the accelerator. And though the committee reserved judgment, saying that it wanted to consider the matter carefully, the fact is that you can't beat something with nothing; the established pattern is that the AEC's accelerators are contracted out to university operators, and URA already contains all the elements out of which an alternative managerial setup might be fashioned.

In any case, URA is a power-packed, many-layered organization with a membership that stretches to virtually every important segment of the science-government relationship. Its president is Norman F. Ramsey, of Harvard, who has long been active and influential in Washington science affairs, and especially in the councils of high-energy physics. URA's ultimate governing body is a council of the 46 participating universities, chaired by Kenneth S. Pitzer, president of Rice University and