

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **DISPUTE OVER NEW FDA LABORATORY:** Plans for a new laboratory for the Food and Drug Administration are bogged down in a congressional dispute over the location of the multi-million dollar facility. The House on 25 May approved planning funds for the laboratory, provided that it be located beyond a 50-mile radius of Washington, D.C. This would rule out the original FDA proposal to locate it in Beltsville, Maryland. The appropriation must now be approved by the Senate, where Daniel Brewster (D-Md.) has announced he will fight the location restriction. The laboratory, which will house the Bureau of Science Divisions of Pharmacology, Microbiology, and Nutrition, was first proposed in FDA's fiscal 1966 budget request. Congressmen who contend that too large a percentage of the federal research dollar goes to coastal states succeeded in deleting funds for the laboratory from the 1966 and 1967 appropriations. Proponents of the Beltsville site argue that the estimated \$17.5 million construction cost will be increased by several million dollars if the facility is not built adjacent to the FDA headquarters laboratory in Maryland. An FDA survey of alternate sites named the University of Wisconsin at Madison as its first choice.

● **CARNEGIE, MELLON JOIN NAMES:** The new institution formed by the merger of Carnegie Institute of Technology and the Mellon Institute has been named Carnegie-Mellon University. The announcement was made during commencement exercises at Carnegie on 5 June. The name change will be effective on 17 July. All previous accounts of the Pittsburgh merger had referred to the planned institution as Carnegie University (*Science*, 10 February).

● **AUSTRALIANS PLAN 150-INCH TELESCOPE:** The Australian and British governments have completed an agreement to build and operate jointly a 150-inch optical telescope at the Australian National University's astronomical field station near Coonabarabran, New South Wales. This follows by less than 2 months the U.S. announcement that a 150-inch telescope is planned for the Cerro Tololo Ob-

servatory in Chile (*Science*, 12 May). The Australian and Chilean telescopes will be similar and some common contractors may possibly be used. Both are scheduled for completion in 1973. Of two other proposals for major telescopes in the Southern Hemisphere one has been dropped and the other is still under consideration. Plans for a 150-inch telescope, jointly sponsored by the University of California and Australia, were cancelled months before the agreement between Britain and Australia. A proposal by the Carnegie Institution of Washington to build a 200-inch telescope in Chile is still being pursued.

● **NEW HEALTH SERVICE PROGRAMS:** The National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the Public Health Service has awarded \$155,000 to the University of Rochester School of Medicine to establish a center for research and training in toxicology. Under another PHS grant of \$38,050, the nation's first program for training doctoral candidates in techniques of pollution-free disposal of solid wastes will be established at the University of Kansas at Lawrence.

● **MENTAL HEALTH AMENDMENTS OF 1967:** The House and Senate have authorized an appropriation of \$238 million to extend the present program of construction and staffing grants for community mental health centers through 30 June 1970. The original Community Mental Health Centers Act of 1963 authorized appropriations of \$223.5 million for the program. The new authorization would provide matching construction grants of \$50 million in fiscal 1968; \$60 million in fiscal 1969, and \$70 million in fiscal 1970. Matching grants for the initial staffing of the centers were authorized through fiscal 1968 in the original bill. The amendments would add \$26 million for fiscal 1969 and \$32 million in fiscal 1970. Changes contained in the 1967 amendments include amending the term "construction" to permit acquisition of existing buildings and making federal hospitals, as well as nonfederal institutions, eligible for Public Health Service funds for research, training, or demonstration project.

development. However, very few people will sacrifice for it." To which Komons adds, "During the early 1950s, the Air Force sacrificed little for basic research, especially money. OSR's budgets, in relation to the total Air Force R & D effort, were mercilessly low. And there was little inclination to bolster them. People in high places even had doubts as to the propriety of the Air Force having a basic research budget."

Since the amorphous and unplanned state of federal relations with the nation's universities is a standard source of concern, in political as well as in academic circles, it is worth taking note of an episode that Komons describes in some detail. In 1952, Lieutenant General Earle E. Partridge, commander of ARDC, became concerned that universities might become overly dependent upon federal research support. Accordingly, he wrote to Detlev Bronk, president of the National Academy of Sciences, proposing a study to assist OSR in assessing "the proper role of universities as educational and research institutions, the needs of the Air Force, and the overall good of the Nation."

Komons relates that when word of this proposal reached Lieutenant General L. C. Craigie, deputy chief of staff for development, USAF Headquarters, Craigie wrote Partridge a letter that "severely criticized the proposed study. . . . The nub of Craigie's criticism was that the Air Force had no role in the support of university research; this was the job of the National Science Foundation. The Air Force did not support university research, according to Craigie, it bought university research. Hence the Air Force had no direct concern with the impact of federal research support on universities." In some manner, Komons relates, a copy of Craigie's letter came to Bronk. Komons reports that Bronk, who was involved with Craigie in a wondrously tangled hassle over another advisory matter concerning the Air Force, "was still bristling over Craigie's letter . . . six months after the event. . . ." Bronk "could not think of the letter with any show of calm." In an encounter with Colonel Oliver G. Haywood, chief of OSR, Bronk was reported to have described the Craigie affair as "The worst example of bureaucratic fostering of socialism in this democracy that I have ever encountered."