

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **MIDDLE EASTERN TRAVEL:** The State Department recommends that U.S. citizens wishing to enter any of the nine Middle Eastern countries on its restricted list, apply to the department for a specially validated passport. The countries on the list are: Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Republic, and Yemen. Applications for the validated passport may be made by writing to the Department of State, Passport Office, Washington, D.C. The application should include: the traveler's destination, his reason for going there, possibly a letter from a superior indicating the need for the visit, date of birth, place of birth, and passport number. The application may take 2 weeks to process. The State Department will not issue validated passports to tourists, and in many cases, to dependents of persons whose travel to the Middle East has been approved. Generally, applications are considered from scientists, physicians, businessmen, and newsmen. U.S. commercial airlines are not running regular flights into the countries, but travelers may get there on American chartered flights or by transferring abroad to foreign carriers.

● **ANIMAL CARE:** Research facility registration forms, required under the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act passed last August by Congress, are now available from the veterinarians at the state field offices of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Research Service. The offices are generally located in state capitals; a list can be obtained from the USDA research office in Washington, D.C. The forms must be filed by 24 August. The law (PL89-544) requires registration of all research facilities that purchase or transport dogs and cats in interstate commerce or receive federal money for research. By signing the registration form, the research facility acknowledges receipt of the regulations, and agrees to comply with them.

● **SONIC BOOM OPPONENTS:** Two Harvard scientists have formed a League Against the Sonic Boom to oppose production of commercial supersonic transport planes. William Shurcliff, a senior research associate at

the Cambridge Electron Accelerator, is director of the League, and John T. Edsall, professor of biological chemistry, is deputy director. The League is concentrating on writing letters to Congressmen and government officials and is also conducting an advertising and educational campaign. Formed 3 months ago with eight people, it now has more than 200 members. Of these, Shurcliff said, about half are from the academic community and one-quarter are scientists.

● **NSF AWARD:** John T. Wilson, deputy director of the National Science Foundation since July 1963, has been named the first recipient of the NSF Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor conferred by NSF on its employees. The award, which includes a gold medal, is made for "singularly outstanding service."

● **TECHNOLOGY AND HEALTH:** Charles D. Flagle, professor of public health administration, Johns Hopkins University, has been named to a new Public Health Service position, Special Assistant to the Surgeon General for Health Applications of Modern Technology. He will be responsible for the coordination and assessment of PHS activities related to the application of modern systems analysis, computer and communication technologies to the delivery of health services. PHS currently supports approximately \$20 million worth of research in the field. Flagle holds a Ph.D. in engineering and has been involved in the application of operation research techniques to medical and hospital care since 1956.

● **UNITED STATES-INDIA EXCHANGE PROGRAM:** An exchange program of scientists and engineers between the United States and India is being established under an agreement signed in February by the two governments. The NSF is administering the program for the United States and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research for India. Under the program, financial support will be provided for exchanges ranging from 2 weeks to several months. Additional information may be obtained from the NSF Office of International Science Activities, Washington, D.C. 20550.

does not seem too much to ask; after all, we all use the same forms for income tax reporting."

M. E. Forsman, director of the engineering and industrial experiment station at the University of Florida, Gainesville, reported, "We have had a plentiful supply of government auditors and others from various agencies visiting our campus on official business. One recently was trying to close out a building grant and asked if a particular air-conditioning duct was paid for from state funds or from their grant funds. Obviously we do not request that the contractor maintain cost records in this detailed manner." Forsman added that, in support of a construction program on campus, "there are funds from the university, NSF, Title I of the Higher Education Act of 1963, and Title II. . . . We have had to supply colored floor plans showing which areas are obtaining support from each of the agencies. NSF and Title II support graduate education and research whereas Title I supports undergraduate. We will probably be expected to use the space as outlined in our accepted proposal for funds. However, a growing university is a dynamic institution, and I know that changes in the use of space will probably be made even before we move into the buildings."

James M. Miller, associate director for administration at the Kitt Peak National Observatory, in Arizona, listed the following reports that are required of the observatory, which is operated by a university consortium under contract to the federal government: nondiscrimination report, Davis-Bacon labor report, computer utilization report, federal contract report, excess property report, federal property report, federal drivers' licenses report, gold flow report, and patent report. "We are subject to three audits," Miller stated, "that of our sponsor, our corporation and the General Accounting Office. In 11 months of calendar 1966, we experienced 22 man-months of audit, with no disclosures of significant transgression." He pointed out, however, that, whatever the headaches of administration may be, he believed that the government's sponsored research program had been "outstandingly successful."

Byron Backlar, manager of life sciences contracts and grants at the University of California, Los Angeles, wrote: "A major trend, which is not