

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **NASA ADVISORY BOARD:** The National Academy of Engineering has established an Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board to advise the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Patterned after the National Academy of Sciences Space Science Board, the new board will operate under a contract with NASA. Dr. H. Guyford Stever, president of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, will serve as board chairman, and Colonel Robert J. Burger, retiring executive secretary of the Scientific Advisory Board at U.S. Air Force Headquarters, Washington, D.C., will be executive director. The board will make recommendations to the government on engineering priorities, use of engineering talent, and improvement of aerospace engineering education.

● **NEW YORK EDUCATION:** New York has increased its appropriations for higher education by 481 percent over the last 8 years, placing it well out front in the nation, according to a survey by an Indiana University professor. M. M. Chambers reports in the June issue of *Grapevine* that the average 8-year gain in the 18 states which have reported appropriations for next year is 252 percent. For the State University of New York, Chambers calculated, the 2-year increase between 1965-66 and 1967-68 has been 80 percent, compared with an average 2-year gain of 50 percent in the other states. New York was the only state with public institutions that received an "A" rating on both scales in the recent salary survey by the American Association of University Professors.

● **MEDICAL DEVICES SAFETY ACT:** The administration has proposed a Medical Devices Safety Act which would place certain classes of new medical apparatus under the control of the Food and Drug Administration. The bill (HR 10726) has been introduced in the House by Harley O. Staggers (D-W.Va.), chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, to which it has been referred. Provisions of the proposed act include mandatory standards on composition, properties, or performance of certain medical devices such as bone pins and catheters; premarket clearance of unproved devices such as or-

gan substitutes; and registration and inspection of device manufacturers. The act also provides for an independent advisory committee, nominated by the National Academy of Sciences, to hear appeals on standards and premarket clearance decisions. Two other bills, HR 6165 by Edwin Reinecke (R-Calif.) and HR 7621 by Don Fuqua (D-Fla.), call for a national commission to study quality controls and manufacturing procedures for medical devices and determine to what extent Federal regulation is necessary.

● **NATIONAL LIBRARIES COORDINATION:** The three national libraries have formed a task force to plan the establishment of a national computerized catalog information center. The first step in the coordination effort will be standardization of cataloging systems so information from each library can be fed into a common data bank. The Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine are currently making limited use of computers and the National Agricultural Library is conducting an automation study. The proposed data bank would serve as a reference source for all libraries in the nation and could be used to produce indexes and bibliographies for other libraries. The joint effort will also include a national data bank of serial titles held by American research libraries so that scholars can locate publications anywhere in the United States.

● **SALMON SEMANTICS:** Producers of salmon, the fish, say sales of their product are suffering from confusion with salmonella, a stomach-turning bacterium. Their solution, as proposed in a bill introduced by Senator Warren Magnuson from salmon-producing Washington State, is to revise bacterial nomenclature: under the bill, salmonella, named after its discoverer, Daniel Salmon, an American veterinarian, would become "sanella," and all federal agencies would be required to refer to it as such. Magnuson says the change is logical because his proposed terminology relates to "sanitation," the lack of which usually causes the disease. Magnuson called the confusion "unfortunate" and said it was not his intention to "detract from the good work of Dr. Salmon, or to deprive him of credit due for his discovery."

(i) eliminate the \$6.2 million earmarked for studies on advanced manned-space-flight concepts; (ii) reduce the money available for nuclear-rocket development (work which Fulton had extolled as a means of avoiding obsolescence in NASA booster technology); (iii) eliminate an extra \$10 million which the committee had added to the \$20 million NASA had requested for its university sustaining program; (iv) reduce from \$71.5 million to \$50 million the money authorized for beginning work on an unmanned Voyager mission in 1973—a mission to place a spacecraft in orbit around Mars and to land an automated laboratory on the Martian surface; and (v) reduce from \$150.7 million (the amount allowed by the committee) to \$72 million the money authorized for procurement of the small and medium-sized launch vehicles, such as Scout, Delta, Atlas Agena, and Centaur, used in launching scientific satellites.

There was little discussion of the meaning and likely consequences of these cuts. Certainly Fulton gave no intimation of his strategy which, as he now describes it, is to use the reductions as a bargaining lever when the House-Senate conferees meet. "When we come to the conference," he told *Science*, "I will offer to negotiate on the items cut in order to get a change in the Saturn scheduling." (Although several fewer Saturns would be manufactured under Fulton's plan, the rate of production would be stepped up for those which are needed; this, he says, would save large sums.)

At best, Fulton's strategy seems likely to give him only a small part of what he wants, while leaving large cuts affecting such things as the procurement of rockets for scientific missions. It appears that, under the rules of the House, AAP (including production of the Saturn boosters) can be cut no more than an additional \$45 million, for the Senate authorization for AAP is lower than the House figure by only that amount. Moreover, Teague is concerned that, even with the \$65-million cut in AAP, the program will be hurt. He will be reluctant, and perhaps unwilling, to go along with Fulton's strategy. In fact, he and Fulton may have trouble sitting at the same conference table. "Jim Fulton double-crossed us," he says, "and I am going to tell him that to his face everytime I see him."

Representative Joseph E. Karth of Minnesota, chairman of the Space Sciences and Applications Subcommittee,