

ball." At the end of the day, when the period of stocktaking began, it appeared that the President had pulled-off the politician's feat of pleasing everyone, including the Laskerites. They feel that their having engineered the Presidential visit in the first place is a plus for their side, and they are especially pleased that their efforts also forced NIH to look at—and make some reforms in—the practical side of its operation.

What induced the President's mood of satisfaction is another question. It is a safe guess that the Vietnam budget played a role in restraining him from issuing a call for "more." In addition, he seemed comforted to find himself in a situation in which controversy and dissent were comparatively low in key: Shannon and Mrs. Lasker may disagree, but they do not picket or throw eggs. He seemed reassured by being identified with a governmental function in which he could take unambiguous pride. All the achievements of NIH are aimed at just one thing, Johnson said, "a better, freer, happier, healthier life for all the people. That is something that ought to unite even the most controversial among us. Even the most cynical should be able to embrace that goal." Perhaps he was aware that the appearance of lack of sympathy with NIH would have further reduced his support in the academic community.

The Presidential seal of approval does not mean that the underlying issue is resolved or that NIH will have no future problems. The question of how to extract the most productive results from federally sponsored medical research is extremely subtle. Even in the most rational and nonpolitical of worlds no one could be certain of the correct answer. There is little doubt that NIH will be entering a period of experimentation. Further, as the story on p. 408 points out—and as the recent report acknowledges—NIH faces a number of difficulties in holding its top-rate researchers and it faces future budgetary problems as well. The President has been a good deal more generous with his words than with money. But it seems safe to say that, while a certain amount of churning will continue, the specter that has been haunting NIH during the past year—direct presidential intervention to force a fundamental change in the agency's direction and purpose—has been at least temporarily vanquished.

—ELINOR LANGER

## NEWS IN BRIEF

● **FIRE RESEARCH ACT:** A bill that would establish a national Fire Research and Safety Center operated by the National Bureau of Standards has been sent to the House by the Science and Astronautics Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Development. The bill, the Fire Research and Safety Act of 1967, would authorize up to \$10 million to be used by the center for government and private research in prevention and control of fires. The legislation would also establish a commission to study technological improvements in fire prevention and communications techniques and future training needs for personnel.

● **ANTIOCH INVESTMENT POLICY:** The board of trustees of Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio, has adopted a policy statement that calls for the school's investment advisory committee to consider a company's racial and religious policies when making or retaining investments. "The College, as an educational institution," the statement reads in part, "opposes racial and religious bigotry and prejudice, wherever and however practiced." The college's total investments are worth between \$3 and \$3.5 million. The investment issue was brought to the board's attention at its May meeting when 50 students entered a closed session to ask if the college had any investment holdings in South Africa. None of the investments could be traced directly to South African business, an Antioch spokesman said, but the trustees decided that "the social consequences of its investment policy are a legitimate concern of the College."

● **HEART RESEARCH:** Contracts totaling more than \$5 million have been awarded to five medical centers by the National Heart Institute (NHI) for the establishment of clinical units for intensified study of acute heart attack patients. They are the first of 10 to 12 such units which the Institute plans to establish for developing and employing new bioengineering and biomedical techniques. The 1-year contracts, which are renewable, were awarded to University of Alabama Medical Center, Birmingham, \$1.86 million; Cornell University Medical College,

New York City, \$1 million; Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N.C., \$1.07 million; Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, \$800,000; and Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, \$1.04 million. NHI also announced 25 new contracts and the extension of 16 others for developmental research for circulatory assist devices and artificial hearts. The contracts totaled \$2.8 million and went to universities and various industrial and research firms. NHI's Artificial Heart Branch is concentrating on providing assistance to damaged or failing hearts.

● **NSF COMPUTER GRANTS:** The University of Wisconsin and Purdue University have been awarded \$1.5 and \$1.2 million, respectively, by NSF for acquisition of computer systems. The grants are larger than any previously made to individual schools for such systems. Wisconsin's award will be used to acquire a Burroughs B-8500 computer system and related remote-use devices. The first phase of the system is scheduled for installation in early 1968. It will serve a number of Wisconsin colleges by remote consoles. Purdue plans to acquire a Control Data Corporation 6500 computer complex and add three new faculty members to the computer center staff. The computer is scheduled to be installed in August.

● **NEW SOCIAL SCIENCES PROGRAM:** Starting in the fall of 1968, the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton will begin a 3-year trial program in the social sciences. Carl Kaysen, an economist who recently succeeded the late J. Robert Oppenheimer as director, has announced "the Institute will invite scholars in political science, economics, sociology, anthropology and psychology to work with historians in applying the techniques of the various disciplines to historical materials in order to achieve a deeper understanding of the forces shaping human societies." If the trial program is successful, the Institute plans to establish a permanent school of the social sciences on an equal basis with its schools of mathematics, physics and historical studies. The program is being financed by two \$250,000 grants, one each from the Russell Sage Foundation and Carnegie Corporation.