

versity's Institute of Cancer Research, unaware of what was happening.

The trustees, even Dean Merritt, proceeded on the advice they had. And the opinion of Tapley and Cushman Haagensen, a close friend of Tapley's and a cancer researcher who advised on the project, was that tars were the fundamentally dangerous element in cigarette smoke and that a filter that drastically reduced tar would probably produce a safer cigarette. There is nothing radical about this view. The Federal Trade Commission is campaigning for tar and nicotine ratings on cigarette packages, and most cancer experts have been asking for years for cigarettes low in tar and nicotine.

The project apparently proceeded smoothly until it neared disclosure. The full board of trustees discussed it at the June meeting, the finance committee and the special subcommittee having completed most of the work. All details were not settled, and no binding vote was taken. Undoubtedly, contract arrangements were ironed out during this time. [These arrangements have not been disclosed, but from all indications the portion of the royalties Columbia will get is nowhere near 100 percent. A spokesman for the University said last week that Columbia would receive slightly more than half of the royalties over the period of the patent, with the rest divided between the inventor and some of his principal backers.] Later in the month, a report and ballot was sent to each trustee, and, with only a few dissenting votes, the agreement was approved. Strickman and the University signed final papers 7 July.

It was then that the trouble began. News leaks developed quickly, and soon there was a flood of information—and rumors—about the Columbia filter. The stock market reacted as early as 11 July, two days before a scheduled press conference to announce the filter. No one claims to know where the leaks started. But at least one large leak was planned; William Suitt, Strickman's friend and adviser, informed some television reporters three days before the press conference to allow them time to visit Strickman's laboratory.

By Thursday, 13 July, the press conference was almost an anticlimax. Both of New York's morning papers, the *Times* and the *Daily News*, had run stories about the filter. The television stations ran their films Wednesday night rather than Thursday as originally planned. This coverage before the press conference only attracted more attention

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ● MARINE SCIENCE ACTIVITIES:

The Commission on Marine Science, Engineering and Resources has awarded a \$92,000 contract to the Institute of Public Administration, New York City, for an 8-month study of the activities and roles of state and local governments in relation to the marine environment. The Institute will subcontract a portion of the study to John I. Thompson and Company of Washington, D.C. The contract is the fourth awarded by the Commission, which was created last year to recommend a national marine science program by 1 July 1968. In addition to using data compiled through its own studies, the commission will also draw on data compiled by the National Council on Marine Resources. The Commission will be terminated 30 days after the publication of its report. The Council will end 90 days after the Commission.

### ● NEW COMPUTER OFFICE:

All NSF computer programs were combined 1 July under a newly established Office of Computing Activities. The office will administer NSF university assistance programs for establishing or upgrading computing facilities as well as establish a new program of experimental computer activities. The office will be in three units: Institutional Computing Services Section; Education, Research, and Training Section; and Special Projects Section. Last year NSF awarded \$409,000 in grants under the Instructional Science Program and \$11.5 million under the Program for University Computing Facilities. Dartmouth College has announced it was awarded \$142,500 under the latter program which will be used to link 18 New England Secondary schools via teletype consoles to its time-sharing computer system. Up to 200 callers will be able to use the computer simultaneously.

### ● NEW NIH GRANTS:

Five universities have been awarded Health Sciences Advancement Awards, totaling \$3.6 million, to upgrade their biomedical research and research training programs. The awards, by the Division of Research Facilities and Resources of NIH, are the first in a new program designed to advance broad segments of graduate schools with biomedical facilities which are now in the middle level

of competence. Universities receiving the awards are the University of Colorado at Boulder and Denver, \$687,000; University of Oregon, Eugene, \$695,000; Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., \$564,000; Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., \$620,000; and Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., \$592,000. The University of Virginia at Charlottesville and Cornell University at Ithaca, N.Y., received continuation grants of \$483,000 and \$359,000, respectively. Both had pilot grants last year. Grants are renewable up to five consecutive years. NIH plans to expand the program next year.

### ● EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH CENTERS:

Five pilot research centers, each operating on a \$110,000 grant from the Bureau of Research of the U.S. Office of Education (OE), have been established to assess and develop techniques for educational planning and operations. According to an OE announcement, the centers will investigate four major questions: "What will society require of schools in the future and how might schools begin to prepare for these new demands? What should be the curriculum objectives now and in the future and what are their implications for schools today? What resources will be available to schools in the future and how might this affect planning today? What technologies will be available to schools in the future and what are their implications for schools today?" Centers in the pilot program and their heads are: Stanford Research Institute, Menlo Park, Calif., Willis W. Harman; Syracuse University-General Learning Corporation, New York, Thomas Green; Systems Development Corporation, Santa Monica, Calif., Marvin Adelson; Western Behavioral Sciences Institute, La Jolla, Calif., Richard Farson; and National Planning Association, Washington, D.C., Leonard Lecht. The pilot programs got underway in June and will continue until 1 March 1968. At that time OE will announce which of the five, if any, will continue their programs as operational centers. Plans call for two centers to be funded for an indefinite period at \$600,000 annually. Each would be manned by approximately 15 full-time researchers. Depending on the results of the pilot programs, as many as four or as few as none could be funded.