

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **FAMILY PLANNING:** Both the British Parliament and the French National Assembly have approved legislation expanding their governments' roles in family planning. The *International Planned Parenthood News* notes that the British legislation gives local authorities in England and Wales the authority to supply family planning advice and contraceptives on social as well as medical grounds. The French National Assembly repealed the law against the manufacture, import, and sale of contraceptives that had been on French law books since 1920. The law is expected to be replaced by a measure legalizing family planning and providing government control over the manufacture and sale of contraceptives as well as the establishment of government information centers.

● **MEDICAL SCHOOL TUITION:** The dean of the Cornell University Medical College has asserted that private medical colleges should consider reducing or abolishing tuitions. John E. Deitrick noted in the fall issue of Cornell's *Alumni Quarterly* that the tuitions charged impose a financial burden on the students, even though the revenue brought in by them pay only a fraction of the total costs of running the schools. Last year's budget at Cornell Medical College, he said, was \$14.3 million and tuition provided only \$661,000, or 4.6 percent of the college's income. Cornell Medical College charges \$1800 in annual tuition, and is one of 13 private medical schools that charge \$1800 or more for tuition. Cornell dispensed more than half the amount it received from tuitions last year in scholarships and student loans. Scholarships totaled \$306,772 and student loans \$80,700.

● **WILSON FELLOWSHIP REDUCTION:** The number of Woodrow Wilson fellowships that will be granted in 1968 will drop to about 15 percent of the number granted in recent years. Sir Hugh Paylor, president of the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation, said the cutback was due to a \$4.3 million-a-year reduction in funds from the Ford Foundation. The Ford Foundation has provided \$52 million for the fellowships over the past 10 years and has indicated it will provide only \$2.4 million for the next

2 years. The \$3000, 1-year fellowships are awarded to American and Canadian graduate students who are seeking a college teaching career. Most recipients have been in the humanities and social sciences. A Wilson Foundation spokesman said the cut in funding will mean that only about 150 of the fellowships will be given next year compared with about 1000 that have been awarded annually in recent years. The foundation, however, plans to name 1000 persons, in addition to the 150 recipients, as "Woodrow Wilson designates" with the hope that universities will recognize them with fellowships. A Ford Foundation official said that support was curtailed because the federal government now finances fellowships in the humanities and social sciences whereas it did not when the program was started. He said the government now provides about 3000 federally supported fellowships in those fields annually.

● **"ENVIRONMENTAL" HIGHWAY:** A study to evaluate both the environmental and functional aspects of a proposed 24-mile highway in Baltimore, Md., has been announced by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Financed by a \$4.8 million contract from the department, a team of highway, traffic, and safety engineers, architects, city planners, sociologists, psychologists, political scientists, and economists will design and route a section of the interstate highway system through the city. Secretary of Transportation Alan S. Boyd said that "with early planning consideration of the highway's social, economic, historic and functional impact this will become not just a road through a city but an integral part of the city," and he predicted that the study may set the pattern for the design of future highways throughout the country. The urban design concept team that will make the study will be drawn from four private firms. Among the tasks slated to be performed by the team will be to establish design criteria and to determine the characteristics of neighborhoods through which the highway will pass. During the 2 years the study is under way, the team is also expected to study the entire pattern of Baltimore traffic and to evaluate the city's mass transit and commercial transportation problems.

10 percent of total R & D expenditures. As a consequence of these expenditures, a huge and expensive research enterprise came into being. It is important to note, too, that this was an expansion-minded enterprise, for, driven by memories of prewar neglect, inspired by the scientific and technical opportunities that lay ahead, and encouraged by the government's seemingly unlimited willingness to spend on R & D, great emphasis was placed on the construction of new research facilities and the support of trainee and fellowship programs for producing new generations of scientists. By 1965, however, the pace of growth began to level off, partly as a result of congressional reaction to the rapid rise, and partly as a result of the Executive branch's efforts to replace the pell-mell rush into R & D with some ordering of priorities. Thus, between 1963 and 1964, R & D expenditures rose from \$11.9 billion to \$14.6 billion; but 1965 brought only a slight increase, the smallest in years, for a total of \$14.8 billion. In 1966 the figure rose to slightly over \$16 billion. By then, however, the attempt to restrain and order the federal role in R & D was joined by three still more powerful factors—the financial demands of the Vietnam war, a somewhat confused but nevertheless potent emphasis on utilitarian research, and the political certification, in the form of a presidential order, of demands for broader geographic distribution of federal R & D support. The combined effect of these factors was an attempt to get many more slices out of a budget that was increasing only slightly. Expenditures for 1967 were planned to total \$16.5 billion, but the full returns are not yet in, and it is doubtful that the administration actually permitted the sum to go. For the current fiscal year, planned expenditures were to be something over \$17 billion, but again, it is doubtful that the administration will permit that amount to be spent.

Now, among those in the federal bureaucracy who are responsible for overseeing the relationship between science and government, the politically induced stresses and strains and the deceleration of federal support for R & D were no source of joy—especially after years of what, at least in retrospect, amounted to an open season on public funds. And, in appearances before congressional committees and in addresses to their professional colleagues, they stated grounds for concern.