

DOD, however, is relatively immune to many of the factors that produce technological backwardness in the housing industry. Building on its own tracts, and free to ignore many of the vested-interest requirements that afflict home building, it can strive for the systems approach in housing, and tell prospective contractors, as it did in announcing the program, that "Statutory limitations, building codes and other criteria restrictions currently in effect should not prohibit contractors from developing conceptual designs which provide maximum cost benefits in construction, operation and maintenance while maintaining high livability standards and maximum standardization."

Three Contracts Awarded

Specifically, following a competition specially aimed at arousing the interest of universities, technologically advanced firms outside the housing industry, and established firms within the field, Defense has awarded three contracts, for a total of \$200,000, aimed at obtaining "a significant reduction in the unit cost of military housing by the utilization of new materials, advanced technologies and other innovations without reducing quality or livability. . . ." The specifications add that "achievement of this goal will aid the entire Nation in solving its mass housing problem, as well as benefit the Department of Defense." The recipients of the contracts were (i) a consortium headed by Karl Koch and Associates of Boston, with Kaiser Industries, National Gypsum, and the Battelle Memorial Institute; (ii) the General Electric Company; and (iii) the University of Michigan and the Aerojet General Corporation.

The preliminary studies are now either completed or close to completion, and, if they are considered satisfactory, the next step will be to draw up a more extensive program that will be submitted to Congress as part of the Department's fiscal 1969 budget.

DOD's venture into housing research naturally raises the question of the role of the newly established Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Within that agency, there is actually a good deal of approval of DOD's effort. HUD, which plans its own housing research activity, only recently received funds for research and is now going through the difficult process of acquiring a staff and developing relationships with outside research organizations. As one HUD research official put it, "DOD has two advantages. It

NEWS IN BRIEF

● CAMBRIDGE PEACE PETITION:

A resolution calling for the "prompt return home of the American soldiers in Vietnam" that appeared on the 7 November ballot in Cambridge, Mass., was defeated (*Science*, 3 November). However, both pro- and anti-war forces claimed the victory. Officially, 11,349 voters (39 percent of those voting) favored the resolution while 17,742 were opposed. The returns were counted on 28 November. A leader of the group that sponsored the initiative petition (resolution) said the group had not expected to gain a majority vote and that the results were a "remarkable repudiation of the President's policy on Vietnam." The Cambridge anti-war resolution was one of two which appeared on local ballots nationwide during November. A more strongly worded petition was defeated in San Francisco by nearly a 2 to 1 margin.

● NAS MEMBERSHIP:

The National Academy of Sciences has increased the maximum number of members that can be elected to the Academy annually from 45 to 50. The increase, which can be applied for the first time during the Academy's 1968 annual meeting in April, was approved as an amendment to the bylaws on 23 October. The Academy has also established a new membership section, Applied Physical and Mathematical Sciences, which will be part of the class in Engineering and the Applied Sciences.

● SCIENCE POLICY BULLETIN:

The first issue of a bimonthly bibliographic bulletin covering subjects on science and public policy was published in October by the Battelle Memorial Institute. Subsequent issues are expected to include listings of material published during the preceding 2 months. The *Science Policy Bulletin* may be obtained without charge by writing to Robert W. Brainard, Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus Laboratories, 505 King Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201.

● FEDERAL COUNCIL ENLARGED:

President Johnson issued an executive order 8 November which enlarged the Federal Council for Science and Technology by adding members from the departments of State, Housing and Urban Development, and Transportation. The council, which the additions

bring to 12 members, was established by executive order in 1959 to consider the problems and developments concerning the overall advancement of science and technology in the U.S. In addition to the three new members, the membership is composed of one representative from each of the following federal agencies: Agriculture; Commerce; Defense; Health, Education, and Welfare; Interior; the Atomic Energy Commission; National Aeronautics and Space Administration; the National Science Foundation; and the Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology.

● LSD LEGISLATION:

Twenty-five Congressmen introduced identical measures 20 November that would make possession or use of LSD or other hallucinogenic drugs with similar properties illegal unless prescribed by a physician. Possession and use of marijuana, already punishable by stringent penalties, was not included in the bills. Under the measures, first offenders could receive up to 1-year jail sentences or fines of \$1000. Second offenders could be imprisoned 3 years or fined \$10,000.

● FCC CIGARETTE ACTION:

The executive committee of the National Tuberculosis Association (NTA) has endorsed a ruling by the Federal Communications Commission pertaining to anticigarette announcements on radio and television (*Science*, 17 November). Because the ruling faces a court test, the committee instructed its legal counsel to make application to the appropriate federal court to file an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) brief in support of the FCC ruling. A spokesman for the NTA said he believes the association is the first of the voluntary health agencies to take such action.

● VANNENAR BUSH PAPERS:

Vannevar Bush has given some 18,000 of his personal papers to the Library of Congress. Bush, a physicist and electrical engineer, served as president of the Carnegie Institution between 1939 and 1955. He was director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development from 1941 to 1947 and is now the honorary chairman of the MIT Corporation. After cataloging, the papers will be available to researchers in the Library's Manuscript Reading Room.