

its auditors, the AMA has designated certain trusted employees to open the 15,000 to 20,000 first-class letters it gets each day to make certain that incoming money, which can mount into the thousands of dollars in a single day, is correctly handled. (Mail marked "personal" is not supposed to be opened.) The scientists seem to have lived with this mail system until one researcher received what he considered a personal check through the mail, along with a note from the accounting department asking if it was rightfully his. Staff scientists say they were also "extremely embarrassed" when a touring Scottish scientist, who used the institute as a mailing address, arrived to find his personal letters had been opened. "Thank God he didn't get a check," comments one staff scientist.

Another battle raged over the AMA's policy of locking its doors at the close of the business day. This meant that scientists who came back to the building to work at night would sometimes have to wait 20 or 30 minutes in the cold until a guard finished his rounds and returned to his post at the door to admit them. Other frictions developed, according to Ritts, over the handling of honoraria; the high salaries paid some institute scientists (wives of other AMA professionals apparently got jealous); the participation of some scientist in a lab coat and sandals and marches; and the clannishness of the scientists, who always ate together in the cafeteria and failed to "mix" with other AMA personnel. "As a group we never really fit in," says Ritts. "The scientist in a lab coat and sandals and turtleneck sweater was a source of puzzlement to the AMA rank and file."

The battles probably reached a pinnacle of emotion last May when institute scientists met with an AMA attorney to discuss policies on honoraria, retirement, and other issues. The meeting ultimately degenerated into a shouting match, according to one transcript of the proceedings. Several scientists registered gripes, the attorney suggested anyone who was unhappy could quit, and Sir John Eccles at one point exclaimed: "I'm not used to being talked to this way." One observer found it "a most embarrassing and difficult meeting—the lawyer and Eccles were extremely antagonistic and rude to each other."

F. J. L. (Bing) Blasingame, the AMA's executive vice president, considers the administrative squabbles "a tempest in a teapot" which the scientists

## NEWS IN BRIEF

● **IRS TAX RULING:** The Internal Revenue Service has abolished the tax-exempt status for advertising revenues received by the publications of a number of nonprofit organizations, including the AAAS. The new ruling, which went into effect 13 December, provides for exceptions, including that a publication which is losing money will not have to pay taxes on its advertising revenues. Among the publications that will be affected by the ruling are *Science*, the *National Geographic*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Nation's Business*, and *Banking*.

● **MARINE LAB FIRE:** A fire on 17 December at the University of Miami's Marine Sciences Institute caused extensive damage. Among the losses was an accumulation of data and specimens from 17 years of research on billfish and marlin. Officials at the institute could not estimate the cost of damage, but some believe that, on the basis of the man hours involved in the destroyed materials, it could be as much as \$10 million.

● **NOISE POLLUTION:** A special committee has been appointed by Secretary of the Interior Udall to study the impact of noise in the environment. The effect of widespread sonic booms is expected to be one topic that will come under study. The group, which met for the first time on 20 December, is expected to issue a report on its findings in mid-1968. John C. Calhoun, vice president of programs, Texas A & M, is chairman of the group. Other members are: H. Stanley Bennett, professor of biology and medical sciences, University of Chicago; Rene J. Dubos, professor of pathology, Rockefeller Institute; Joseph L. Fisher, president, Resources for the Future; Roger R. D. Revell, director, Harvard Center for Population Studies; Athelstan F. Spilhaus, president, Franklin Institute; Harrison Brown, foreign secretary, National Academy of Sciences; N. Barry Commoner, Botany Department, Washington University, St. Louis; Leonard Duhl, special assistant to the secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and Gordon J. F. MacDonald, executive vice president, Institute for Defense Analyses. Interior representatives are: John L. Buckley, head, Office of Ecology; S. Fred Singer, deputy assistant to

the secretary for water pollution control; and Milner B. Schaefer, science adviser to the secretary.

● **PUBLICATION RULING:** The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit has upheld the decision of a lower court that a state university law review has the right to select which manuscripts it will publish. Alfred Avins, assistant district attorney for New York City, had filed charges against the Rutgers University Law Review after the review had rejected one of his manuscripts. In the suit, Avins contended that a state-supported university such as Rutgers is a public instrument through which all must be allowed to present their ideas. He claimed that the review's editors had no right to reject an article because of its nature or ideological approach. In rejecting those contentions, the three-member court ruled, "The right to freedom of speech does not open every avenue to one who desires to use a particular outlet for expression. . . . On the contrary, the acceptance or rejection of articles submitted for publication in a law school review necessarily involves the exercise of editorial judgment and this is in no wise lessened by the fact that the law review is supported, at least in part, by the State."

● **PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD:** The 1967 Rockefeller Public Service Award in the field of Science, Technology and Engineering has been awarded to Herbert Friedman, superintendent of the Atmosphere and Astrophysics Division of the Naval Research Laboratory and chief scientist of the Hulburt Center for Space Research. The Rockefeller awards carry a \$10,000 cash grant and are awarded to federal employees.

● **SMALE GRANT:** The National Science Foundation (NSF) has granted \$87,500 to Berkeley mathematician Stephen Smale. The 2-year grant was made on 17 November, at the same time that a grant for an identical amount was made to one of Smale's colleagues on the project, Professor S. Kobayashi. Smale requested \$247,900 to cover the entire project for a 2-year period with himself as the principal investigator (*Science*, 3 November; 6, 13, and 22 October; and 29 September). Smale's previous grant had been for \$91,500.