

NEWS IN BRIEF

● NIXON ORDERS CBW STUDY:

President Nixon on 18 June ordered a full-scale departmental study of the government's chemical and biological warfare policies, including a review of the U.S. position on arms control and the question of ratification of the 1925 Geneva Protocol which bans "first use" of poison gases. The President's decision was announced by Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) Director Gerard Smith in a letter to Representative Richard McCarthy (D-N.Y.), a congressional critic of CBW. The agencies conducting the study include the Defense Department, State Department, and the ACDA. The White House has announced there will be no moratorium on testing while the study is being conducted.

● INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES ADDS SOCIAL SCIENCES:

The Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton will add a new school of social sciences to its existing schools of mathematics, natural sciences, and historical studies. It plans to have about 8 permanent professors and annual groups of about 30 to 40 visiting scholars at the new social sciences school. The Institute presently has a total of 150 academic members, including visiting scholars. The new social sciences school will focus its early studies on comparative social change and information-processing and decision-making communications within social organizations. A \$1.5-million grant from Ford Foundation and a \$500,000 joint supporting grant from the Russell Sage Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation have been given to the new school. The Institute is presently directed by Carl Kaysen, a professor of political economy. It was founded in 1930 and is sustained by gifts totaling \$19 million from benefactors Louis Bamberger and his sister, Mrs. Felix Fuld.

● NADER TO STUDY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

Ralph Nader, who has gained national prominence for his work in consumer protection, has been named director of a study project, funded by the Carnegie Corporation, to investigate the operation and efficiency of government agencies in order to determine how private citizens and groups may participate more

fully in government decisions. Nader and a small staff will conduct the project for the Center for Study of Responsive Law in Washington, a private nonprofit institution. At Nader's own request, he is to receive no personal compensation from the \$55,000 grant set aside for the 2-year research project. Nader is expected to study and make recommendations on possible ways in which citizens can gain greater access to federal regulatory agencies.

● WATSON TO START TUMOR VIRUS RESEARCH CENTER:

Nobel laureate James Watson has been given a 5-year \$1.6-million grant by the National Cancer Institute to establish a tumor virus research center at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory of Quantitative Biology in Long Island. Watson wears two hats as a Harvard professor and as director of the laboratory. The new center, which will have a staff of about 20 scientific personnel, will specifically conduct genetic and biochemical studies of the tumor viruses SV-40 and polyoma, which are small DNA viruses capable of causing tumors in animals and changes in the appearance of tumor cells in laboratory culture. The center will also investigate various aspects of the synthesis of viral specific DNA, RNA, and protein. The Cold Spring Laboratory is sponsored by 12 participating institutions, which include Harvard, M.I.T., and the University of Chicago. The private laboratory has been in operation since the 1890's and has been funded in the past by wealthy Long Island residents, including the Rockefeller and Morgan families.

● SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE UNDER WAY:

The Smithsonian Institution is planning a new monthly magazine that will focus on the natural sciences, cultural history, and the fine arts. The new journal, which will deal with broad areas of Smithsonian interest, will be sent to Smithsonian Associates, a group of about 8000 members who participate in the Smithsonian's educational activities. The associates, who are located primarily in the Washington area, hope to enlarge the present program to a national level with the new magazine, which will be privately funded. The first issue is expected to appear in about a year.

zations to question HEW's security procedures was the American Orthopsychiatric Association, Inc., which was particularly inspired by its president, Dane G. Prugh of the University of Colorado medical center, and by its president-elect, David L. Bazelon, who is chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Representatives of seven other organizations in addition to the American Orthopsychiatric Association signed the letter and attended a 90-minute meeting on this subject with Secretary Cohen on 25 July.

Participants in the meeting said that Cohen appeared sympathetic to their requests but worried that a lapse in HEW investigating rigor might lead congressmen to try to cut HEW funds. In his October response to the scientists, Cohen said that he felt it necessary to retain the system of security checks but that he had changed the procedure to involve the HEW Assistant Secretary for Administration as well as the department's Director of Internal Security. (Secretary Cohen has been able to develop a more flexible position on this subject since leaving office this year. In an interview with *Science*, Cohen said that, although he favored continuation of security checks for appointment to HEW councils which helped advise on policy, he did not believe such checks were necessary for the "very scientific" advisory groups for agencies like NIH and NIMH.)

After receiving Cohen's formal reply, Dane G. Prugh wrote the interested organizations that Cohen's "answer must be read as a rejection of the position taken in our letter. . . . Individuals denied clearance still have no opportunity to confront the 'record' against them. There are still no stated standards for determining whether an appointee is clearable."

Most criticized Agency is HEW

The system of requiring security and suitability checks on employees is required throughout the federal government. Checks on part-time advisers are also done in other agencies, but in this writer's observation, the HEW checks seem to have elicited the most cries of anguish from the scientific community.

In preparing this story, *Science* talked to several professors who had learned that they were not "clearable" by HEW but who were at the same time serving on high-level Defense Department or National Science Foundation (NSF) panels. One NIMH official told *Science*