

into; there is no evidence that any intensive review of this process is going on in Finch's department.

In light of the many expressions of discontent about the HEW security check system, it is natural to ask why so little has been done to change it. One succinct reason is offered by HEW's Irving Lewis, who said: "Most officials take the course of least resistance; we don't have enough people with guts in government." Robert Felix said that many people in government do not protest the security system for fear that the security people will start to wonder about them. "People run scared," Felix said.

Another reason is that the whole system has received very little public attention and criticism. The protests which have been made to HEW have generally been private ones, and the great bulk of the scientific community and even of government officialdom has no real idea of how this highly secretive process works.

Former NIH director James A. Shannon is just one of those who make the point that it is very difficult for agency heads to deal with the security system because relevant officials are unable to get a full account of why various scientists have been rejected as prospective appointees by HEW. If

the agency heads do not know what information the security office possesses about a man, they are reluctant to totally commit themselves to try to overturn his rejection. Shannon also said that the exclusion of certain people was more of an "irritant" than a real hindrance to the working of his agency and noted that an agency head always has more pressing problems on which he needs positive action from the HEW Secretary and other high department officials. "Administrators don't spend capital with the Secretary lightly," Shannon points out.

There is worry both among outside scientists and among government officials that these security checks eliminate some of the more adventurous and imaginative scientists from advisory appointments. There is also a fear that the investigation system will make scientists cautious about expressing their political views. "Knowing what happened to Steve Chorover," one member of the NIMH neuropsychology panel told *Science*, "I wondered whether I should endanger my career by marching in a Vietnam protest a couple of weeks ago."

Those interested in changing the present investigatory system often wonder what can be done. Obviously, nothing is likely to be done without a con-

tinuation of the kind of organized protest initiated by the American Orthopsychiatric Association last year. That organization has obtained support from eleven other scientific organizations, including APA, continues to urge other groups to join its effort, and has hired a Washington lawyer to represent it in this matter. The group is trying to arrange a meeting between scientific organizations and Secretary Finch in the near future.

HEW could doubtless lessen the checking it presently does for part-time advisers in nonsensitive areas. There does not seem to be great pressure from outside the department for rigorous checks of these advisers, and HEW might meet outside expectations if it relied only on the comments and recommendations of scientific colleagues, comments which are usually obtained before the name is sent to the HEW security office for clearance.

Of course, with some display of interest from Secretary Finch or from the White House, the whole system of security checks for part-time advisers in nonsensitive areas could be thoroughly reviewed and revised. Such a revision could yield an inexpensive dividend of political goodwill toward the Nixon Administration from the academic community.—BRYCE NELSON

## McElroy Proposed To Head NSF; Branscomb, Bureau of Standards

The Nixon administration announced its nominees for two major scientific posts last week. The President chose William D. McElroy, 52, chairman of the biology department at Johns Hopkins University, to head the troubled National Science Foundation (NSF), and Lewis M. Branscomb, 42, a career federal scientist, to direct the relatively placid National Bureau of Standards. Both appointments are subject to confirmation by the Senate.

The choice of McElroy was particularly interesting because it seemed to carry out a pledge made by Nixon on 28 April that politics would play no part in the selection of a new NSF director. McElroy is a registered Democrat who participated actively in the

1964 Scientists and Engineers for Johnson campaign and who was one of ten cochairmen of the 1968 Scientists and Engineers for Humphrey-Muskie campaign, a fact which is said to have been brought to Nixon's attention.

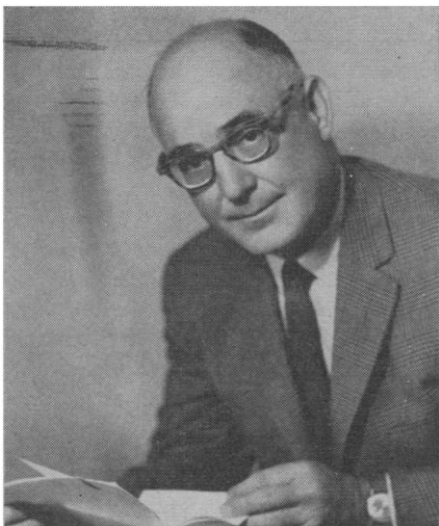
However, McElroy told *Science* he is "not a political type." He said he tends to vote independently and has taken no position on the antiballistic missile (ABM), an issue that embroiled the NSF directorship in political controversy last April.

The choice of McElroy, a distinguished biologist, was greeted with enthusiastic praise and a sigh of relief by leaders of the scientific community, for it has not been easy to find a scientist willing to take the \$42,500-

a-year NSF post. Asked what attracted him to the job, McElroy replied: "I don't know that I was attracted. I had my arm twisted by Phil Handler [chairman of the National Science Board, which nominates candidates for the NSF directorship]. It got to the point where I began to worry about the future of science and of the country as a whole, so I said, 'All right.'"

McElroy's name came up during the third major effort this year to find a new NSF director to succeed Leland J. Haworth, whose term expires on 30 June. The first two talent hunts ended in failure or fiasco. Initially, the Science Board proposed Emanuel R. Piore, vice-president of IBM, and H. Guyford Stever, president of Carnegie-Mellon University, but both men, after negotiating with Lee A. DuBridge, Nixon's science adviser, withdrew their names from consideration.

In a second effort, the board then nominated Franklin A. Long, vice-president of Cornell University, and another man, whose identity is not



William D. McElroy

known. Long was tentatively chosen, had accepted the job, and was about to be named publicly when he was blocked by White House political advisers who were apparently responding to pressure from Congressional Republicans who opposed Long's views on the ABM and other issues (*Science*, 18 and 25 April and 2 May). After the scientific community protested that such views were irrelevant to the "non-political" NSF job, Nixon had his special assistants, Henry A. Kissinger and DuBridge, again offer the post to Long. Nixon also pledged to consider only scientific and administrative competence, not political views, in choosing a new NSF head. However, Long declined to put his name back into consideration, and the other man also asked that his name be dropped.

Thus the Science Board had to come up with a third batch of nominations. The precise names submitted to the White House are not known, but insiders report that the board came up with at least five potential nominees, including McElroy. The other four were Roger W. Heyns, chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley; George E. Pake, provost at Washington University; Joseph B. Platt, president of Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, California; and Frank Press, chairman of the department of geology and geophysics at MIT. Some of these men, too, are said to have withdrawn their names for various personal reasons.

McElroy still must be confirmed by the Senate, and it is conceivable that some Republicans may object to McElroy's identification with Democratic Party activities. But the two legislators

who seem to have played the biggest role in blocking Long—namely Senator Everett M. Dirksen (R-Ill.) and Representative James G. Fulton (R-Pa.)—have indicated they will approve McElroy.

The appointment of McElroy—coupled with the recent election of Philip Handler, a biochemist, as president of the National Academy of Sciences—should increase the influence of life scientists in Washington. Since World War II the major science policy posts have generally gone to physical scientists, many of whom matured in weapons work.

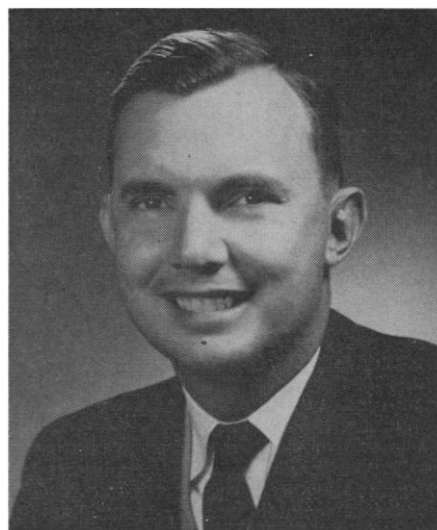
The selection of McElroy was greeted with enthusiasm by scientists who know him well. Franklin Long, who has served on the President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC) with McElroy, called him "a firm, incisive person with a good deal of vim and vigor. I expect he'll really sail into NSF and get things going." Ivan L. Bennett, Jr., who worked with McElroy at Hopkins and on PSAC, commented: "He's a pistol. He's a very good, hard-nosed administrator who can make up his mind and is not afraid to speak out on public issues."

#### McElroy's Accomplishments

Science adviser DuBridge said McElroy was chosen because he possesses the "very highest" scientific qualities, because he has performed a "marvelous administrative job" in boosting the Hopkins biology department to "a position of leadership in the country," and because he has "very broad interests" which extend beyond the narrow confines of biology to encompass physics, chemistry, and engineering.

McElroy's scientific contributions won him election to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences in 1963. He has worked primarily on the molecular basis of bioluminescence and has demonstrated the complex series of chemical changes which make bioluminescence possible in fireflies, luminous bacteria, and various marine organisms.

Though McElroy has not had major administrative experience, he has won praise for his record in guiding the biology department at Hopkins. In 1956 he took over a department that enjoyed only a middling reputation and propelled it upward to the point where it was ranked the fifth most distinguished zoology department in the country in the 1966 assessment of graduate education conducted by Allan



Lewis M. Branscomb

M. Cartter, vice-president of the American Council on Education.

McElroy has spent his entire professional career on the faculty at Hopkins. He was born in Rogers, Texas, won his bachelor's degree from Stanford in 1939, his master's from Reed College in 1941, and his doctorate from Princeton in 1943.

He is considered "strong" and "gutsy" by his friends. A tall, husky, balding man, he played right end for the Stanford football team and before that was selected for the Junior College All-America team while playing at Pasadena Junior College. More recently, he directed a 1963 National Academy of Sciences study that recommended an international program to curb population growth at a time when such ideas were not politically popular. George B. Kistiakowsky, science adviser to the late President Eisenhower, credits the report with being a catalyst that helped stimulate the White House to provide aid to foreign countries in the birth control field. Kistiakowsky calls McElroy "a very good choice for NSF director from every point of view. He's extremely capable and very eloquent."

McElroy is described as friendly, bluff, fair-minded, persuasive, and willing to change his mind. Even those who have opposed him in the past seem to admire him. Philip Siekevitz, a Rockefeller University biochemist, who objected last year when the American Institute of Biological Sciences, then headed by McElroy, sponsored a symposium honoring Fort Detrick, the Army's biological warfare center, says that McElroy is "a very able man who can see differing points of view."

Though McElroy has not yet won recognition as a major "statesman of science," he has had considerable experience dealing with federal science policy problems. He was a member of PSAC from 1962 to 1967 and served on PSAC panels that prepared important reports on pesticides and oceanography. Gordon J. F. MacDonald, head of that oceanography panel, calls McElroy "one of the toughest minded guys I've ever run across—if there's a difficult problem he doesn't duck it." McElroy was also a member of the Wooldridge committee that reviewed the programs of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and he is currently on the advisory council to the director of NIH. He has served as an adviser to the National Science Foundation, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Defense Department, the Office of Naval Research, and Fort Detrick, and he is a trustee of Brookhaven National Laboratory and of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass.

If McElroy is appointed, he expects to begin work on a part-time basis 1 July and devote full time starting

next fall. He has not yet met President Nixon.

Branscomb, who has been nominated as director of the National Bureau of Standards (NBS), is a distinguished atomic physicist who has spent 18 years—virtually his entire professional life—with the Bureau. He directed the Bureau's work on atomic physics for many years, and, since 1962, has headed the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics in Boulder, Colo. The institute is jointly operated by NBS and the University of Colorado. It was largely established through Branscomb's efforts.

Branscomb graduated summa cum laude from Duke University in 1945, won his master's and doctoral degrees from Harvard, and was a junior fellow in the prestigious Harvard Society of Fellows from 1949 to 1951. He served on PSAC from 1965 to 1968 and still heads PSAC's panel on space science and technology. He is also a special consultant to the secretary general of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, an international group of industrialized nations.—PHILIP M. BOFFEY

## APPOINTMENTS

**James R. Heirtzler**, director of the Hudson Laboratories, New York, to chairman of the department of geology and geophysics at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. . . . **Otis A. Singletary**, University of Texas vice chancellor, to president of University of Kentucky. . . . **F. Joachim Weyl**, dean of science and mathematics at Hunter College, to acting president of Hunter. . . . **Allan A. Kuusisto**, vice president for academic affairs at University of New York, Albany, to acting president of the university. . . . **Thomas D. Nicholson**, deputy director of the American Museum of Natural History, to director of the museum. . . . **James H. Cavanaugh**, director of the office of planning and program coordination, HEW, to deputy assistant secretary for health and scientific affairs, HEW. . . . **Robert J. Uffen**, chairman of Canada's Defence Research Board, to the new post of Chief Science Adviser to the Cabinet. . . . **Sydney Howe**, vice president and acting president of the Conservation Foundation, elevated to president of the foundation. . . . **Christopher C. Fordham, III**, associate dean of the medical school at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, to dean of the school of medicine at the Medical College of Georgia. . . . **Louis J. West**, head of the department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center, to chairman of the department of psychiatry at University of California at Los Angeles School of Medicine and medical director of the Neuropsychiatric Institute. . . . **Robert D. Cross**, president of Hunter College, to president of Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania. . . . **Elwood V. Jensen**, professor of physiology in the Pritzker School of Medicine, University of Chicago, to director of the Ben May Laboratory for Cancer Research at the university. . . . **John H. Meier**, assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado Medical Center, to director of the John F. Kennedy Child Development Center at the medical center. . . . **Laurence L. Boger**, chairman of Michigan State University's department of agricultural economics, to dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at M.S.U. . . . **Sidney D. Rodenberg**, professor of microbiology at the University of Pennsylvania, to dean of the university's School of Allied Medical Professions.

### House Group Recommends Big NSF Cut

The House Appropriations Committee last week chopped \$80 million from the National Science Foundation's budget request for the coming fiscal year—an action that indicates NSF can expect another tight funding squeeze. The committee recommended that NSF receive new appropriations of \$420 million for fiscal 1970—a sharp drop from the \$500 million proposed by President Johnson and agreed to by President Nixon.

The recommendation must still be approved by the full House, which was scheduled to vote on the appropriation as this issue went to press, and it must be reconciled with whatever appropriations action the Senate ultimately takes. But pessimists might note that the same House Appropriations Committee chopped \$100 million from the NSF budget last year and made its recommendation stick.

The committee's recommendation this year would give NSF a slight boost over last year's \$400 million appropriation but would still leave NSF well below the level of 2 years ago, when it received appropriations of \$495 million.

In addition to the appropriation, NSF will have \$20 million in carry-over funds available to spend next year, thus allowing total obligations of \$440 million. In the current year NSF had \$35 million in carry-over funds and a total budget of \$435 million.

The committee gave no detailed explanation for its cuts. It simply said: "The funding level of Foundation programs has more than tripled in the last decade, and the Committee feels the funds in the bill will provide a reasonable level of funding for 1970."

The committee bill contains the same anti-riot provision that is contained in the current NSF appropriation act. The provision requires universities to deny NSF aid to anyone who, on the basis of a hearing, is found guilty of a willful and serious refusal to obey orders.—P.M.B.