

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.