

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **POLLUTION KIT:** Representative Henry Reuss (D-Wis.) has prepared a "do-it-yourself" kit for citizens wanting to bring legal action against polluters. The kit includes provisions of the 1899 Refuse Act, an outline of enforcement procedures for an individual, a list of Corps of Engineers offices, a list of U.S. Attorneys offices, and House Report 91-917 entitled "Our Waters and Wetlands: How The Corps of Engineers Can Help Prevent Their Destruction and Pollution." The 1899 Refuse Act prohibits anyone from discharging refuse into navigable waters or their tributaries; penalties include heavy fines, half of which is given to persons who furnish information to the U.S. Attorney leading to the conviction of the polluter. So far, Reuss's office has distributed about 1000 of the kits; requests have come in at the rate of a hundred a day since an Associated Press story at the end of April. Most of the requests have come from educators, particularly college professors, but many have also come from individuals who complain about specific polluters and say they want to bring legal action. Reuss's office has received only one report of legal action to date.

● **MARIHUANA REPORT:** The House Select Committee on Crime has published a report on the hazards and effects of the use of marihuana based on hearings in 1969 in six cities with witnesses including former users, sociologists, teachers, law enforcement officials, doctors, and clergymen. Among the findings of the report are that (i) marihuana can cause psychological dependence; (ii) use of marihuana can introduce persons to a drug culture, which in turn may lead to experimentation with other drugs; (iii) the effect of marihuana depends in large part on the mental set and milieu of its users; (iv) 8 to 12 million persons in the United States have tried it at least once; and (v) courts customarily exercise leniency, especially with first offenders. The Select Committee has asked the Surgeon General to prepare a report on marihuana similar to the one issued on the hazards and medical effects of smoking cigarettes, and has recommended that the federal government reduce the penalties for possession of the drug. The report is available for 50¢ from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

● **NAS ELECTS FOREIGN ASSOCIATES:** The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has elected ten scientists as foreign associates of the academy. Election as a foreign associate is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed by the NAS on a scientist who is not a United States citizen. Elected were: Charlotte Auerbach, University of Edinburgh, Scotland; Derek H. R. Barton, Imperial College of Science and Technology, England; Hendrik B. G. Casimir, N. V. Philips' Gloeilampenfabriken, Netherlands; Albert F. Frey-Wyssling, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Switzerland; Izrail M. Gelfand, Soviet Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R.; San-Ichiro Mizushima, Tokyo University, Japan; Sir Rudolph Peierls, Oxford University, England; Max F. Perutz, University Postgraduate Medical School, England; Sir George W. Pickering, Oxford University, England; Emilio Rosenbluth, National University of Mexico, Mexico.

● **NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING ELECTIONS:** Clarence H. Linder has been elected as the first full-time president of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) succeeding Eric A. Walker, president of Pennsylvania State University. Linder's former positions include vice president of the NAE and president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. He will serve a 1-year term.

Chauncey Starr has been elected vice president of the academy. Starr, who is dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science at UCLA, has served as vice president of North American Aviation and on the academy council. Starr will serve a 4-year term.

Thomas C. Kavanagh and J. H. Muligan, Jr., were reelected as treasurer and secretary, respectively, of the academy.

● **CIGARETTE ADS:** The President has signed a bill banning cigarette advertising on radio and television after next 1 January. The cutoff date will permit cigarette advertisements on the telecasts of football games on New Year's Day. The bill also prescribes a stronger warning label for cigarette packages, and gives the Federal Trade Commission authority to require a health warning in other advertisements after 1 July 1971, provided Congress has been notified 6 months in advance.

committee on Government Research headed by Senator Fred R. Harris (D-Okla.) was deactivated last year, and Representative Henry R. Reuss (D-Wis.), who headed a House Subcommittee on Research and Technical Programs, has concentrated on environmental issues. Representative Emilio Q. Daddario, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Development and the legislator who is the best informed and most sympathetic interpreter of science and its problems in Congress, has announced his retirement from the House to seek the governorship of Connecticut. Senator Ralph Yarborough (D-Texas), chairman of the Senate Labor and Public Health Committee and a friend to the cause of biomedical research, was defeated for renomination in the recent Texas senatorial primary. Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), chairman of the Subcommittee on NSF Fund Authorizations, is seeking an increase in financing for the foundation, but Kennedy is probably too heavily committed elsewhere to be able to concentrate his efforts on defending science.

In the executive branch the change of Administration has brought some shifts in power over science affairs, although the full consequences are not yet evident. An increase in the size of the White House staff at least potentially implies some lessening in the decision-making power of the Bureau of the Budget over science spending. Furthermore, it appears that the departure from the bureau of some veterans of the science management section has brought in top men whose policy views are not yet clear. One reported result is that the advisory influence of the Office of Science and Technology (OST), which has not been regarded as enormous, seems to have declined.

Decentralization and pluralism in federal science have always been blamed for the chronic weakness of science planning and program coordination in the federal system. NSF and then OST have been successively designated to exercise policy-making and coordination powers, but both agencies have let the cup pass. The NIRAS proposal asks for a strengthening of OST in both manpower and authority and makes other recommendations to improve the science policy apparatus, but the recommendations sound like old remedies that have been proved safe but not particularly effective.

One practical alternative to NIRAS would probably, in the view of many