

ination of the Colorado River. "The United States is the AEC's laboratory, and its people are the experimental animals," Metzger complains.

Along with the American Civil Liberties Union and the Open Spaces Coordination Council, CCEI members played a part in a suit in federal court to stop Project Rulison and to stop flaring of gas from the resultant wells. Although the suit was unsuccessful in stopping Project Rulison, CCEI members feel that they were partially vic-

torious for the following reasons. (i) A right to sue the government in this matter was established. (ii) Citizens established that they had legal standing to sue in such a case. (iii) The suit forced the AEC to reveal much information on the project. (iv) The Federal judge, Alfred A. Arraj, said that additional testing and flaring would take place under his supervision. (v) CCEI members believe that the AEC has backtracked from its original plan of firing several hundred underground

nuclear explosions in western Colorado.

Several of those in government who were interviewed expressed respect for the scientific work done by CCEI. "In our direct discussions with Peter Metzger," said Lee Aamodt of Los Alamos, scientific adviser to the Plowshare program, "I have not found any discrepancies. Metzger is concerned that if there are hundreds of underground shots, control should be exercised over these shots. We would agree that controls should be exercised."

## Finch Leaves HEW for Advisor's Post; Yolles Out at NIMH

President Nixon announced last weekend that Robert H. Finch would give up his post as Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) to move to the White House staff as a counselor to the President on domestic affairs. This announcement of the first major change in the Nixon Cabinet overshadowed news of the departure a few days earlier of Stanley F. Yolles from the directorship of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) in the most public display, to date, of differences between the Nixon Administration and a top career health administrator.

As successor to Finch at HEW the President has nominated Elliott L. Richardson, currently Under Secretary of State and chief administrative officer at the State Department. Richardson served in HEW in a subcabinet post during the Eisenhower Administration and for a brief period was Acting Secretary. (Stresses within the HEW hierarchy over policy and administrative issues will be discussed in an article in this section in a forthcoming issue.)

The Yolles flare-up occurred when the NIMH director sent a letter of resignation dated 2 June to HEW assistant secretary for health and scientific affairs Roger O. Egeberg, in which Yolles wrote, "it has become very clear to me that there are totally fundamental and basic differences between my philosophy, hopes, aspirations and goals for the national mental health program and those of this administration."

Finch responded the same day with a statement in which he called the letter "intemperate" and charged that Yolles had "consistently shown a complete unwillingness to cooperate in [the] Department's planning for more effective mental health programs." Finch announced the dismissal of Yolles as director and the naming of Bertram S. Brown, NIMH deputy director, to succeed Yolles in the job immediately.

Word that Yolles would be replaced has been circulating in Washington in recent weeks. Reportedly, Yolles was particularly concerned about the prospects for the financing of community health programs and mental hospital improvement programs, with the development of which he had been personally associated. He is known to have felt, also, that medical decisions on dangerous drugs were being made in the Justice Department rather than in NIMH.

Inside NIMH, misgivings about Department of Justice influence on a new omnibus narcotics and dangerous drug law were generated even before the Nixon Administration took office (*Science*, 13 December 1968), and these misgivings have grown. Some observers feel that Yolles's standing with the Administration was fatally impaired last September when he testified before a Senate subcommittee on drug abuse control. Yolles made it clear that he was testifying as a professional and not representing HEW. The controversial portion of his remarks was a section in which he discussed marihuana and, in effect, questioned whether penalties for offenses involving marihuana should be so severe when scientific knowledge about the effects of marihuana is inadequate.

In his letter to Egeberg last week, which was apparently triggered by discussions over his replacement, Yolles listed ten areas of serious difference with the Administration. Included were charges that the Administration was damaging the mental health program by curtailing research and training funds, encroaching on the administration of the grants award system, and introducing political considerations into the appointment of individuals to scientific positions within the federal government. So far he has not elaborated on these charges.

Yolles, 51, indicated he would retire from government on 1 November after 30 years of federal service, 20 of it in the Public Health Service. On Friday it was announced that Yolles would be assigned to serve as assistant for mental health to Vernon Wilson, recently appointed director of the Health Services and Mental Health Administration, and Yolles's immediate superior when he was NIMH director. Yolles will have no further responsibility for NIMH. He has not announced his plans for after November.

The new NIMH director, Bertram S. Brown, is, like Yolles, a psychiatrist. Brown joined NIMH in 1960 and has been deputy director for the past 4 years.

Egeberg was quoted in the HEW release as saying that Brown's selection was made after "extensive consultations with highly regarded professionals throughout the nation." HEW officials go to some lengths to head off suggestions that the appointment was politically motivated, and the generally high estimate of Brown's abilities by NIMH officials and the fact that he is a registered Democrat seem to support the contention.—J.W.