

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **PITZER RESIGNS:** Kenneth S. Pitzer, 56, resigned last week after 1½ years as president of Stanford University. In his letter of resignation, he stated, "Entirely too much of my time has been devoted to matters of an administrative or even of a police nature." He said that he welcomed "the prospect of a more scholarly life at a less hectic pace." Pitzer, a well-known chemist, taught at the University of California for 24 years before becoming president of Rice University in 1961. He took over the Stanford presidency on 1 December 1968.

● **BLACK DOCTORS:** Meharry Medical College has received a \$1-million grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation of New York. The grant will be used to increase the number of full-time faculty members over the next decade so that the college may triple its student enrollment, which is currently 500. Meharry is the only predominantly black, private medical college in the United States; it has graduated about half of the black physicians and dentists now practicing.

● **AMA ABORTION STAND:** The American Medical Association (AMA) has voted for the first time in its 123-year history to consider abortion a "medical procedure" and to allow doctors to perform abortions for social and economic reasons as well as medical. The new policy calls for consultation by two physicians other than the patient's doctor and for performance of the operation in an accredited hospital by a licensed physician. No doctor or hospital should be compelled to perform abortions, the AMA said. The president of the 6000-member National Federation of Catholic Physicians Guild has called upon Catholic doctors to resign from the AMA in protest against the new policy.

● **CIVIL LIBERTIES OF STUDENTS:** Students should be allowed to participate in "an effective capacity" in deciding policy on all matters affecting their education and student life, according to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). A new 48-page pamphlet published by the ACLU gives guidelines for student rights on such subjects as freedom in the classroom, campus publications, personal freedom,

disciplinary procedures, and student records. The pamphlet, "Academic Freedom and Civil Liberties of Students in Colleges and Universities," is available from the ACLU at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10010.

● **CAMPUSES AND POLITICS:** The American Council on Education (ACE) has issued guidelines, approved by the Internal Revenue Service, on campus participation in politics. Under the Internal Revenue Code, institutions are denied tax exempt status if they engage in "substantial" legislative activity or participate or intervene in a political campaign. The ACE suggests, however, that rearrangement of the academic year to allow students and faculty to participate in political campaigns is permissible so long as the year is not shortened.

● **AID TO CHURCH-RELATED COLLEGES:** The Supreme Court has agreed to rule on a case questioning whether the federal government may make construction grants to church-related colleges and universities. A group of Connecticut taxpayers contend that such grants, given under the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, violate the First Amendment guarantee of separation of church and state. A federal district court had ruled earlier that the grants were legal so long as the facilities were not used for sectarian instruction or worship. The Supreme Court is expected to rule on the issue some time next year.

● **MANNED SPACE FLIGHT STUDY:** The major recommendation of a panel of experts in space biomedicine which met last summer to explore problems of infectious disease in manned space missions, was that a pre-flight quarantine be instituted to (i) permit acute disease to express itself, (ii) prevent contact and infection of the astronauts by the general public, and (iii) permit cross-contact of flora and exchange of microorganisms among the prospective spacecraft crew. This recommendation and others are contained in *Infectious Disease in Manned Spaceflight: Probabilities and Countermeasures*, available from the Printing and Publishing Office, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20418.

ductive new collaboration between different levels of government and between agencies at each level of government.

At the national party conventions of 1968 the Appalachian governors urged that a federal-state mechanism of the ARC type be adopted for use nationally in coping with problems of "rural decline and central city deterioration." This proposal, which would provide for the United States to be divided up into development regions on the Appalachian model, will be on the agenda at the National Governors' Conference at the Lake of the Ozarks this August, with the Appalachian governors again pushing it. The Appalachian Regional Development Act itself expires next year. But support for the program within the region is strong and there is not much doubt but what it will be renewed, either in its present form, or perhaps with various parts of Appalachia fitting into a new national complex of development regions.

In his State of the Union message in January, President Nixon called for a "national growth policy." ARC is a mechanism of a kind which the president and his domestic affairs council will be aware of as they look for ways to develop and carry out such a policy. The president spoke of "vast areas of rural America emptying of people and of promise" and of central cities suffering violence and decay. He said that government decisions on the locations of highways, airports, and the like must be made with a "clear objective of aiding a balanced growth for America."

John D. Whisman, ARC's states' representative for the past 4 years, proposes that an Office of Regional Development be established in the Executive Office of the President. Federal representatives on all new regional commissions which might be created would report to that office, just as ARC's federal cochairman now reports to the President. Unless the new regional commissions were given substantial funds, however, their influence probably would be as slight as that of the six regional commissions (for areas such as New England, the Ozarks, and the Upper Great Lakes) that report to the Secretary of Commerce. These commissions, set up at the insistence of congressmen who had felt that Appalachia was getting favored treatment, together have a budget one-sixth the size of ARC's.

Whatever its value as a prototype for regional development programs, ARC has not yet dealt with two fundamental