

trying to deliver on his campaign promise—to turn the ACS into something of an advocate for the professional chemist.

Alan Nixon's program, as it has evolved to this point, covers a large spectrum of ideas that are as ambitious as they are imprecise. To some extent, the members themselves will be able to join in the process of winnowing and defining when the solicitation letters go out. One informed ACS staffer says that the letter will probably include a list of tentative plans upon which ACS members may check their preferences, much as if they were giving to the United Fund. (Timing of the fund drive has not been decided, however.)

Nixon calls his self-help plan for chemistry the "Professional Enhancement Program," which yields the acronym "PEP." Heading the list of PEP proposals are several that involve direct financial support to unemployed members of the ACS, though not, presumably, in a way that conflicts with the Internal Revenue Service's definition of a not-for-profit organization. Among these ideas are an income insurance plan, subsidies for short courses in continuing education, and support for planning a program to subsidize "disadvantaged" colleges with 1- or 2-year professorships to be filled by unemployed chemists. Another proposal for direct assistance would set up a fund for interest-free loans to financially pressed members to prevent mortgage foreclosures or pay insurance premiums for a brief time.

Obviously, a million dollars could be sunk into direct-aid programs for chemists without a ripple of improvement in the job situation. With this in mind, Nixon is anxious to invest the bulk of his emergency fund in programs likely to confer more general benefits. Thus, PEP might involve expanding employment services already offered by the ACS, which now consist mainly of free job-wanted ads in *Chemical and Engineering News* and an employment clearing house that operates at national meetings to connect open jobs with available chemists. More money might be invested in job counseling services. And Nixon would like to develop an "unemployment survival kit" to instruct out-of-work members in the fine art of job hunting and résumé writing.

At the same time, money from the ACS war chest might be used to organize a team of "professional relations investigators" who would study the circumstances of industrial layoffs.

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Nixon has also talked about establishing a rating scale to rank corporations according to the job security they offer, their fringe benefits, and generally, he says, according to "the way they treat chemists." A related activity under PEP would be more national manpower studies of the kind the ACS now produces several times a year. Nixon and others at the ACS are also thinking about sponsoring new public relations programs—including films and press seminars—to communicate the importance of chemistry to society. While this would have little direct bearing on employment problems, Nixon says it would serve PEP's secondary purpose of trying to counteract public disenchantment with science and technology. The theory is that federal support for

research goes hand-in-hand with public sentiment toward science.

Potentially the most controversial features of Nixon's PEP proposals are the ones that suggest the ACS might spend some of its members' donations for "government contact work" to influence science policy. If this sounds like lobbying, it is and it isn't. ACS staff members, conscious that overt lobbying would jeopardize the tax-deductibility of dues and donations paid to the society, prefer to speak of "educational activities." For his part, Alan Nixon says that "lobbying has a bad name from the way some people practice it." He thinks that a little advocacy in the halls of Congress for the benefit of chemistry isn't necessarily unbecoming.

"We could provide information and backup support for legislators and identify legislation at the state and federal levels that deserve support," he says. What he has in mind goes beyond plumping for aid to distressed chemists; Nixon believes the society could also do more to marshal supporting information or testimony for public health and environmental legislation.

New Cancer Chief in the Wings

It is likely that virologist Frank Joseph Rauscher, Jr., will replace Carl Baker as director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), thereby assuming responsibility for making a success of the much heralded national commitment to the conquest of cancer through intensified and coordinated research. President Nixon is expected to make the announcement of the change in command any day, although at this writing the White House has not yet decided precisely when official word will come and responds with the familiar "no comment" to all inquiries.

Rauscher, who would be the second Ph.D. to head the institute (other predecessors were M.D.'s), is best known in scientific circles for his discovery, in 1962, of the Rauscher leukemia virus. The agent, which is relatively pure, induces cancer in mice and rats quickly (within 12 days) and has become one of the standard model systems for study of tumor viruses, chemotherapeutic agents, and the like. Rauscher is also known among his colleagues as the "man with the money," a title he assumed when he became the NCI's Scientific Director for Etiology in 1969. Last year, the NCI dispensed some \$80 million for etiological research, 55 percent of it going to studies of the relation between viruses and cancer.

The NCI, which is currently an "agency" in the federal bureaucracy, will probably move up the ladder a rung in July when it is expected to be promoted to bureau status, becoming the National Cancer Bureau, a charmless name. As such, it will have greater independence within the National Institutes of Health and, therefore, presumably will be in a better position to foster progressive and productive research with a minimum of red tape. Indeed, the whole point of the new cancer effort is to get things done efficiently, to set programs into motion without the usual delay inherent in sending plans through endless channels. Rauscher, first off, is going to have to show that he can meet that challenge.—B.J.C.