

fiscal year 1973, even though the cancer act itself places the ceiling for the fiscal year at \$530 million. Asked whether the additional \$100 million could be wisely spent if allocated, Baker told a House appropriations hearing that it could. Why, then, he didn't ask for it in the first place is something of a mystery.

In a sense, a host of things, many of them centering around matters of personality, have conspired to force Baker's ouster. It appears that there is no single, fatal faux pas that can be held against him.

By late March it was known among members of the inner circle that Frank Rauscher had been tapped for Baker's job, and by mid-April it was fairly widely known, although the White House has yet to make an official announcement. Meanwhile, the cancer community is half-functioning in limbo while waiting for the change of command, and Rauscher is trying to establish the new order as best he can in the absence of the authority that has

still to be transferred. The selection of Rauscher was made by the White House and Schmidt. Clark and Good concurred. Nobody else's approval was formally sought although a few board members were polled privately.

Rauscher, 41, is a native of Hellertown, Pennsylvania. A Ph.D. graduate of Rutgers, he is one of a long line of tumor virologists who studied under Vincent Groupe, one of the pioneers in that field. He came to the NCI in 1959, secured his scientific reputation in 1962 with the discovery of the Rauscher virus, which induces tumors in animals (he says the discovery was a combination of "what I like to think was good virology plus a good deal of luck"), and moved into administration in 1964. It was then that Congress appropriated \$10 million for research on cancer viruses—the first large sum so earmarked—and Kenneth Endicott, who was then the head of NCI, asked Rauscher to help in drawing up the initial research plan. The other two

men who figured in the birth of what would eventually become the multi-million dollar Special Virus Cancer Program (SVCP) were Baker and Louis Carrese, now one of Baker's top aides. "Within 6 months," Rauscher recalls, "the program was off and running, and I had to decide whether to stay with it or return to the lab. It was then that I chose to go into administration." The SVCP has been off and running ever since. Today it is the financial and organizational backbone of cancer virus research in this country, one of the few examples of a programmed, targeted research effort, and one of the more controversial programs around (see *Science*, 24 Dec. 1971).

Rauscher, ironically, went on to follow in Baker's administrative footsteps, becoming scientific director for etiology in 1969, when Baker succeeded Endicott. Both Endicott and Baker are said to have predicted that Rauscher would one day head the institute.

Little known outside the world of cancer etiology, Rauscher is widely regarded by his peers as a fair and intelligent man. By and large, word of his promotion has been warmly received within the NCI, where even those staff scientists who are less than enthusiastic about the choice say that he is "balanced," "certainly closer to science than Baker," and "an essentially honest person." From the outside, there has been little response. Baker has received some calls from physicians protesting the fact that Rauscher is not an M.D., but they reportedly have come from individuals, not groups; and anyway it is generally thought that the objection has no valid basis.

Many members of the board, when asked for their reaction, pointed out that they know Rauscher only slightly but, as one commented, "I like what I've seen." His performance at the first board meeting impressed most of its members. (A few months ago, he made a similarly favorable impression on Richard Nixon during ceremonies marking the conversion of Maryland's Fort Detrick from a chemical and biological warfare center to a cancer-research facility.)

Rauscher has the tacit approval of many board members and the active support of others. Of those contacted by *Science*, only James D. Watson of Harvard voiced a negative opinion, saying, "It is a very surprising appointment, a very sad event. I have no further comment." An indirect measure of Rauscher's support was cited by a

## NSF Official Resigns as Job Sinks

The Administration policy of reducing the national output of scientists has squeezed an assistant director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) out of office, the second to resign within the last 8 months. Louis Levin, NSF assistant director for institutional programs, said in a letter last week to President Nixon that the program he headed had been substantially phased out and he thought it proper to resign.

The NSF assistant director for education, Lloyd G. Humphreys, quit last September in protest against a decision by the Office of Management and Budget to withhold \$30 million from the funds appropriated by Congress for the NSF's education support programs (*Science*, 17 September 1971). Levin, who has been with the NSF for 20 years, told *Science* he is not resigning in pique, but simply because of the shrinkage of the programs under him, from a high point of \$80 million in 1967 to \$12 million requested in next year's budget. The decline, Levin notes, started during the previous Administration.

The institutional support programs of the NSF were used, in part, as a kind of slush fund to fill the chinks between more categorical programs. Some funds could be used at the discretion of the institutions concerned, while others were assigned to building and improving the quality of instruction and research. The program was particularly important during the period of university expansion.

Levin is remaining with the NSF as an assistant to the director. His duties will include "sponsoring of research on the ethical and human value implications of science." The NSF will not attempt to lay down guidelines, but simply to encourage research that "illuminates the issues" and provides a basis for decision-making, Levin said.

The assistant directorship Levin vacates will presumably be allocated to some more fashionable NSF activity than institutional support, such as the fast growing RANN (research applied to national needs) program, for which there is \$80 million in next year's budget, or the experimental R & D incentives program, a new \$22-million venture designed to encourage industrial investment in R & D.—N.W.