

facility and was ruled by a board of Mennonites. The area has little taste for federal programs, and the center has not tried hard to make itself known, with the result that, in 1970, only 14 of 284 new patients were nonwhite. NIMH has exerted pressure for change, but there still is little citizen participation, there are no para-

professionals on the staff, and there is great resistance from the politically conservative local power structure to changing the present middle-class orientation.

► Atlanta, Georgia: One of the few centers that has made genuine efforts to become a part of the poor, black community it serves, the South Central

Community Mental Health Center has a welter of relationships with the local public hospital, Emory University medical school, the Office of Economic Opportunity health center with which it is connected, the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Model Cities program, and the county health department. The center, the first of its

## Briefing

### Relaxation of Delaney Clause Considered

High Administration officials are thinking about ways to modify the somewhat controversial Delaney amendment, which bans from foods any chemical that induces cancer when fed to animals. Merlin K. DuVal, assistant secretary for health and scientific affairs in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), would like to see the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) lawyers review the language of the clause with a view to making it more "flexible" while "maintaining its strength."

Asked if he favored modification of the Delaney amendment, DuVal said last week, "I hate to answer 'yes' with a capital 'Y'. However, we do have elements of its language under study. As it stands now, the law does not allow us to invest our judgment in our decisions." DuVal's objection to the law is that it is too black and white. Advances in methodology, which enable scientists to detect agents in food with previously impossible precision, make a reevaluation of the law and its implementation a necessity, he believes.

The idea of modifying the amendment has come up before. According to a spokesman for Representative James Delaney (D-N.Y.), the Congressman has no more reason now to believe that the legislation should be altered than he did a couple of years ago, when the issue was raised under Robert Finch's tenure as HEW secretary. "We have no scientific evidence that a little cancer is good for you," Delaney's spokesman said in response to the contention that cancer-causing agents may be present in safe (nontoxicological) amounts. Nevertheless, he said, "The Congressman would certainly be willing to look

at any proposed changes that can be shown to have merit."

The FDA's chief counsel, Peter Barton Hutt, has said that asking Congress to modify the law would be like asking it to vote for cancer, something the FDA could hardly ask it to do unless it acquires scientific data to justify such a move—B.J.C. In any case, according to members of DuVal's staff, there is little chance of a modified bill coming to light this year.

### Gell-Mann Protested in Paris

Politicians who go gadding about the globe often meet up with protest incidents, and now it appears that the same may be true for scientists who do the same. Murray Gell-Mann, who won the 1969 Nobel Prize in Physics (*Science*, 7 November 1969), was prevented from completing a four-lecture series at the Collège de France in Paris in June, thanks to the protestations of a group of radicals who objected to his participation, during the 1960's in

the Jason summer study group that advises the Pentagon on Vietnam.

Gell-Mann appeared to give the third of the four lectures—the second of which had been attended by an audience of 35 on 14 June—to find the room filled with a crowd of about 100. Calling themselves the "Collectif Intersyndical Universitaire d'Orsay Vietnam-Laos-Cambodge," the radical group queried Gell-Mann about the Jason project, about the bombing of the dikes, about Jason's social science division (which Gell-Mann apparently helped found), and similar matters.

Gell-Mann took the stance that he was there to discuss physics, not Indochina, so eventually the group broke up and Gell-Mann was able to discuss physics as he planned, but in another room.

The following day, a similar confrontation occurred, but, according to French newspaper accounts, it ended with Gell-Mann being ushered from the room to the street with an escort of Collège de France administrators. *Le Nouvel Observateur* said that the incident represented the first time that a guest had been prevented from speaking at the college, which is the pinnacle of the centralized French university system.

In a telephone interview from Switzerland, Gell-Mann repeatedly referred to the radicals as "a gang of ruffians" and said that the incident was not at all typical of the treatment he had received throughout his year in Europe during which he has been based at CERN.

The incident, however, is similar to one in which chemist Melvin Calvin was prevented from completing a 1970 lecture at the Istituto di Sanita (Institute of Health) in Rome, when some in the audience protested his membership on the board of directors of the Dow Chemical Company.—D.S.

