

Shortening and Vegetable Oils, the National Association of Chewing Gum Manufacturers, ITT Continental Baking Company, and the Squibb Corporation.

Of his own background and that of the FDA, Hutt says: "Goddard [FDA commissioner 1966-68] was a better PR man than an administrator. Things looked good under him but little really happened. Herb Ley (commissioner 1968-69) is a very bright guy but he had a hard time making decisions. In some cases it's more important to make even the wrong decision than make no decision at all. When Edwards came in, the place was in a shambles. It took Edwards 2 years just to sort the place out and bring new people in. When Bill Goodrich left, Edwards wanted someone who knew the place and could get started at once. I'd been watching the FDA for 10 years, and I knew what needed doing."

Despite his familiarity with the FDA and its arcane ways, Hutt reckons it took him 4 months to get settled into his new job. Since then he has issued regulations covering such matters as methadone, the food GRAS list, food labeling, and environmental impact statements by the FDA. In addition two major efforts have been regulations on over-the-counter (OTC) drugs and on the Freedom of Information Act. Both are hefty chunks of legal prose that run for pages in the *Federal Register*. Hutt personally drafted these positions, he says, partly because of their importance and partly because of the smallness of his staff (he has only 22 lawyers under him and needs 44). Another potential constraint—disqualification from cases involving former clients—has been less irksome than predicted; Hutt says he has had to disqualify himself from only 2 percent of the cases crossing his desk.

Hutt believes there is a place for creativity in the world of regulatory law. "The chief failing of the FDA people, like other bureaucracies, is lack of imagination. They have no idea of being able to start from first principles and say, 'How can we regulate this or that substance in a rational, sensible way?'" Hutt's own regulatory creativity is evident in his compromise solution on the availability of safety and efficacy data on NDA's.

What kind of impression has Hutt made on his various constituents during his 11 months in office? For the most part, consumer activists, who do not bestow praise lightly on government

officials, if at all, say that it is too early to tell what Hutt's true colors are. "I'm not convinced he has addressed some of the basic issues in a way that is not pro-industry," is Turner's double-negative verdict, based on Hutt's defense of DES and his position on the Freedom of Information Act. Bruce J. Brennan, general counsel of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association, also disagrees with Hutt's position on the Freedom of Information Act, although from the other direction. "Hutt is not industry's man in that job," Brennan says.

Hutt has earned significant accolades on Capitol Hill. He has favorably impressed Delphis C. Goldberg and Gilbert S. Goldhammer, the two ex-

pert FDA-watchers on the staff of the House intergovernmental relations subcommittee. Says Goldberg, "Hutt is attempting to do a fair and objective job. He is not industry-oriented and is probably trying to protect the consumer." And Hutt has received a notable vindication from Senator Moss, chairman of the subcommittee that hauled Hutt over the coals in September.

In a recent letter to Hutt, Moss wrote that, although he and other consumer advocates might not agree with everything the FDA had done since Hutt became general counsel, nonetheless "we certainly can feel confident of your objective handling of all cases. . . . I do not think our in-

An October Summit for Science

Presidential science adviser Edward E. David, Jr., has announced that the first meeting of the new Soviet-American Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation, agreed upon at the Moscow summit in May, will be held in Washington in late October. In a brief news conference, David said that initially the new joint commission would focus its attention on six specific topics of mutual interest to the two countries. These are: energy technology; agriculture; the application of computers to management; water resources; microbiological technology; and applied and basic work in chemical catalysis.

In addition, David disclosed that Soviet officials had expressed an interest in "technical and financial participation" in the worldwide deep-sea drilling project being carried out by the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, in La Jolla, California. Over the past 5 years the project has produced the first drill cores of sea-floor basement rock, and its findings have been of major interest to geoscientists, evidently including those in the Soviet Union. David said that officials of the National Science Foundation (NSF), which supports the project and provides funds for the drilling ship *Glomar Challenger*, will meet their Soviet counterparts for talks on the subject "in the near future."

David's announcement follows a week-long visit to Moscow, which he and a small delegation of American scientists and engineers made in early July to work out protocol for the October session. He described talks with his counterpart, V. A. Kirillin, the deputy chairman of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers, and others, as "very friendly, very easy."

Working groups of scientists and engineers have been set up in both countries to draw up specific proposals for cooperative research and information exchanges to be considered by the joint commission. Representing the United States at the October meeting will be David, as chairman of the U.S. delegation; James B. Fisk, president of Bell Telephone Laboratories (and David's old employer); Harvey Brooks, of Harvard University, representing the National Academy of Sciences; H. Guyford Stever, director of the NSF; and Herman Pollack, the State Department's director of international scientific and technological affairs.

The Soviet side of the commission will consist of Kirillin; V. A. Trapeznikov, first deputy chairman of the State Committee on Science and Technology (SCST); M. D. Millionshchikov, vice president of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences; N. F. Krasnov, first deputy minister of Higher and Secondary Education; and D. N. Pronskiy, director of foreign relations for the SCST.—R.G.