simple fact of its interest in acupuncture research stamps the field with a legitimacy it lacked before. Indeed, the fact that NIH plans to support acupuncture studies came as a surprise to many skeptics who had dismissed the whole subject as frivolous.

In June, the NIH published a book on Chinese medicine, put together in large part by Joseph Quinn of the NIH's Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences. According to Quinn, the book helped stimulate broad interest in the subject at the NIH. Visits between Marston and Walter Tkach, President Nixon's physician, are also cited by NIH officials as a stimulus to the agency's interest, although no one is suggesting that the proposed research program is being launched under White House auspices.

An ad hoc committee on acupuncture met at NIH last month and advised the agency to take the action it has. According to John J. Bonica of the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, the committee judged surgical anesthesia and relief of chronic pain to be the two areas most likely to yield results at first and therefore selected them as the primary research areas for emphasis now.

CEQ Report: Good News, Bad News, A Bit of Indignation

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) released its third annual report last week. It had some good news and some bad news. In the former category was the announcement that there has been an overall improvement in the nation's air quality between 1969 and 1970. Offsetting this has been the nation's inability to curb the increasing befoulment of its water resources. The report candidly acknowledges that the CEQ had underestimated the quantities of noxious wastes that are entering water from land sources such as farms and livestock feedlots as well as urban areas.

The report deals with several areas not included in last year's report—namely, noise pollution from commercial jets, radiation from nuclear power plants, and strip mine reclamation.

The Administration seems to be plunging perceptibly deeper into the cold waters of reality, judging from President Nixon's accompanying comment that "there should be a sober realization that we have not done as well as we must, that changes in laws and values come slowly, and that reordering our priorities is difficult and complicated."

The Council has revised its estimate of the amount the nation must put into environmental clean-up efforts, from a 6-year estimate of $105.2 billion to about $287 billion for the whole of this decade, or 2.2 percent of the gross national product. This figure would be divided as follows: $106 billion to meet air quality standards, $87 billion to achieve water quality goals, $86 billion for collection and disposal of solid waste, and $8 billion for other purposes. The report says that strict standards are going to cause price rises of up to 10 percent in the industries CEQ studied and will put several hundred companies out of business, although most of these are said to be in precarious states anyway.

A brief flurry of public indignation arose over what was dubbed the "case of the missing chapters." It seems that three sections which the CEQ intended to include in the report—on energy, solid waste recycling, and the Delaware River Basin—were withheld on orders from the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Sources in the CEQ indicated that the chapters would be released "after November." The *New York Times*, among others, indignantly accused the CEQ of buckling under to the Administration's desire to keep reports on these controversial subjects under wraps until the President was re-elected, although the official explanation was that these complex matters required further study.

At any rate, according to CEQ sources, the OMB, seeing that the chapters had developed into a "political issue" (Senator McGovern sent off a broadside on the subject), directed that members of the press be allowed to take a supervised peek at the incomplete drafts.

The drafts in fact contained little or nothing that was obviously controversial. The energy chapter merely points up the environmental pros and cons of various energy sources and indicates that the liquid metal fast breeder reactor, although promising, could have accidents even more disastrous than those involving other reactors because the fuel is more radioactive. (This may run against the grain of the Atomic Energy Commission, which is reluctant to admit to the possibility of accidents.) No mention is made of such hot issues as the Alaska oil pipeline and oil depletion allowances.

The recycling chapter concedes that this mode of waste disposal is the least attractive alternative from an economic standpoint, but it refrains from suggesting any new federal incentives such as subsidies or tax incentives. (The Treasury Department is said to be firmly opposed to the latter measure.)

The Delaware River Basin chapter is a case study of the staggering pollution problems that beset a heavily industrialized and fast-growing area. But there is no direct criticism of local clean-up efforts or of the four-state Delaware River Basin Commission, which, in conjunction with the federal government, is responsible for setting uniform water quality standards for the area.

Overall, the CEQ has enjoyed a number of successes in its attempts to influence White House thinking, but it has also had some disappointments, of which the fumble over the "missing chapters" is only a minor one. On balance, says CEQ member Robert Cahn, "we have accomplished more than I expected we would be able to do, but not as much as I hoped."

Cahn says past disappointments have nothing to do with the planned departure of two-thirds of the three-member Council this fall. Cahn himself wants to get back to the *Christian Science Monitor*, from which he took a 2-year leave of absence that expired last January, and Gordon J. F. MacDonald has been planning for some time to take a teaching position at Dartmouth College.—CONSTANCE HOLDEN