

### Institutional Patterns and Societal R&D

Several programs in this year's annual meeting will be concerned with the institutional impacts of federal policies and the application of science and technology to societal problems through new or altered institutions. One will examine the impacts on U.S. universities of federal research funding and related policies. A second will be concerned primarily with the underlying assumptions and methodology of societal problem-solving institutions. A third will be concerned with the difficulties of, and approaches to, research as applied to national needs.

"Federal R&D and Universities: Impacts of Funding and Policy on Institutional Patterns," arranged by Rodney W. Nichols of the Rockefeller University and scheduled for 27 December in the Shoreham Hotel, will reappraise selected impacts on U.S. universities of federal research funding and related federal policies.

The situation leading to this reappraisal is well known. By the end of the 1960's—as research funding became scarce—universities faced serious questions about support for research and graduate education which were related to national security, health, nuclear energy, space, and other federal goals, as well as the institutional implications of greater dependence upon federal funding.

This symposium will first review and evaluate the experiences of three campuses (Princeton, Stanford, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology) which have reevaluated their research trends and policies, partly because of institutional debates about military support of academic research. Second, it will review the consequences of a few federal policy initiatives that have affected most major universities. Finally, it will relate these issues to the broader questions about institutional independence and the mechanisms of accountability between universities and the public through federal funding.

"Institutions for the Application of Science to Social Needs," arranged by John C. McKinney of Duke University, is scheduled for 28 December in the Shoreham Hotel. This symposium will examine some of the underlying assumptions concerning the direct appli-

cability of scientific information and technological innovation to societal problem-solving, discuss some recent cases of socially oriented R&D efforts, and develop some tentative recommendations regarding the use of these new mechanisms.

Several points are likely to be made at the outset. The extent to which science and social science can become relevant, and effective, is dependent largely upon our ability to devise new institutions, which are genuinely structurally different from present institutions. Such new institutions will be problem-oriented rather than discipline-oriented and they must necessarily contain a "critical mass" coalition of natural and social scientific and engineering talent. The longer time-frame between initiating new mechanisms, or institutions, and the assessment of their effectiveness, as well as the unquestionable importance of the problem, implies that close attention to the appropriate development of these new "means" is required.

The symposium will include an examination of the interrelationships among science, social science, and society's problems. A paper will be presented by Roger E. Levian of the Rand Corporation on the design and refinement of the newly established National Institute of Education, from which will be drawn some conclusions regarding organizing the government to support social R&D. Henry Riecken of the University of Pennsylvania will conduct a discussion of some alternative approaches to social innovation involving a multiplicity of smaller-scale experimental efforts—so designed as to help

increase understanding of the innovative process and its consequences. A presentation will be given by Amitai Etzioni of the Center for Policy Research about the electronic town hall as a case study in engineering and social science collaboration, and a paper by George R. Herbert of the Research Triangle Institute will discuss the problems and prospects in redirecting a research institute toward social goals.

"Research Applied to National Needs," arranged by Herbert Carter of the University of Arizona and Raymond L. Bisplinghoff of the National Science Foundation, will be presented on 29 December in the Shoreham Hotel. This symposium will be concerned with various problems of, and approaches to, research as applied to national needs. It will concentrate on the progress of the National Science Foundation's RANN program during its first year and a half of existence, together with discussions on the problems and opportunities of university interdisciplinary research. Papers will be given on important examples of research focused on national needs.

In addition, an open forum for meeting participants to make suggestions regarding the RANN program is being arranged by Joseph F. Coates of the National Science Foundation. This forum will be held on the morning of 30 December in the Shoreham Hotel.

Thus, this year's meeting offers, through the above programs and others, an unprecedented array of programs dealing with important issues for the future functioning of our traditional institutions of learning and research, as well as mechanisms for the more effective application of science to society's needs.

### Social Experimentation and Public Policy

A new technique is emerging for improving social policy—actual experimentation with new social policies on a fairly large scale before they are undertaken. For example, experiments have been used to estimate the impact of new income maintenance systems on labor force participation and earnings, and to test the hypothesis that school systems could improve the performance of children by contracting with private

firms for instruction. Other experiments now in the design phase include testing the impact of the terms of health insurance on utilization of health services, and evaluating the effect of housing allowances on the supply and quality of housing.

The symposium "Is Social Experimentation a Practical Way to Develop Social Programs?" (27 December, Washington Hilton), arranged by Fred-