

and Mental Health head Vernon Wilson and Surgeon General Jesse Steinfeld.

In the biomedical research community the strongest tremors were caused by the firing of Marston. Portents of big cuts in the biomedical research and medical school support budgets at a time when the NIH front office was empty struck many researchers as particularly threatening. Furthermore, the NIH directorship has seemed to biomedical scientists a symbolic stewardship above politics and beyond arbitrary action from "downtown." Because Marston, like David, was neither a maverick nor a bungler, his firing, coming at the time of so many other firings, is being interpreted by some as a move to "politicize" the post.

This is not necessarily so if the Administration's pronouncements are taken at face value. The President made no secret during his first term about his unhappiness with the way government agencies are organized and function. And in early January he repeated his philosophy and his plan for reorganization in a formal statement on "Redirecting Executive Branch Management." The following excerpt gives a fair idea of the thrust:

Americans can feel in their everyday lives the effects of a Federal establishment that in recent decades has become increasingly wasteful, inefficient, and expensive, more and more meddlesome in the affairs of individuals and lower levels of government, and too often unresponsive both to the people whom it exists to serve and to the Presidents whom the people elect to administer it.

This is why I early proclaimed reform as a watchword of my Administration. This is why I moved to rescue the postal service from political pressures and bureaucratic tangles. This is why I commissioned wideranging studies by the President's Advisory Council on Executive Organization in 1969. This is why I followed up on those studies by establishing the Office of Management and Budget, the Domestic Council, and the Environmental Protection Agency by reorganization plans in 1970, and by proposing legislation early in 1971 to replace 7 outmoded, constituency-oriented Cabinet departments and a number of independent agencies with 4 streamlined, goal-oriented departments fitted to needs of the future.

During the 19 months that these reorganization proposals were before the 92nd Congress, valuable groundwork for their enactment was laid in hearings and staff work, and refinements to the legislation were added by the Administration. Although progress fell short of my hopes, I am determined to continue building on that progress by resubmitting similar legislation to the Congress in 1973.

I trust that the Members of the House and Senate received the same message

Box Score: Hired, Fired, Retired

A check of 30 top government science jobs shows that, as of inauguration, nearly half are vacant, mostly as a result of the wave of sackings and resignations that President Nixon initiated soon after his reelection. The changes and new appointments announced so far are listed below.

In the Office of Science and Technology, both the director, **Edward E. David**, and the deputy director, **John Baldeschwieler**, have resigned, amid rumors that the OST is to be merged with the NSF or with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). David was also the President's science adviser and chairman of the President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC) which may also be destined for liquidation.

A clean sweep has been made at the top of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (*Science*, 22 December 1972). Departures include Secretary **Elliot Richardson** (to be Secretary of Defense), under secretary **John G. Veneman**, assistant secretary **Merlin K. DuVal**, surgeon general **Jesse L. Steinfeld**, director of the National Institutes of Health **Robert Q. Marston**, and director of the Health Services and Mental Health Administration **Vernon E. Wilson**. **Charles C. Edwards**, commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, is likely to move up to the assistant secretaryship. Richardson and Veneman are replaced by two OMB officials, **Caspar W. Weinberger** and **Frank C. Carlucci**, but successors to the others have yet to be announced. **John F. Sherman**, deputy NIH director for administration, has been appointed acting director, and former director Marston is to be acting director of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke.

At the Department of Defense, **John S. Foster** has resigned as director of defense research and engineering; **Robert L. Johnson** and **Robert A. Frosch**, assistant secretaries for research and development in the Army and Navy, respectively, have resigned; their Air Force counterpart, **Grant L. Hansen**, submitted a pro forma resignation but is still in office. **Gardiner L. Tucker**, assistant secretary for systems analysis, has also quit.

The director for science and education in the Department of Agriculture, **Ned D. Bayley**, has resigned, and his office has been abolished. Scientific and educational functions are to be assumed by the office of the assistant secretary for rural development and conservation. The current incumbent, **Thomas K. Cowden**, has resigned to become a counselor to the secretary.

In the National Science Foundation, no resignations were requested from director **H. Guyford Stever**, deputy director **Raymond L. Bisplinghoff**, or assistant directors **Thomas B. Owen** and **Edward C. Creutz**. Two other assistant directorships at the NSF have been vacant for several months.

Atomic Energy Commission chairman **James R. Schlesinger** has quit to run the Central Intelligence Agency, but the other four commissioners are expected to continue in office.

The top hierarchy has been confirmed in office in NASA, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Council on Environmental Quality. In the Department of the Interior, **Frank Clark**, deputy under secretary for science, has returned to the Geological Survey and his post abolished. The post of science adviser in the Interior has been vacant since 1970. **John D. Whitaker**, presidential assistant for the environment, becomes under secretary of Interior.

Harold B. Finger, assistant secretary for research and technology in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, has resigned. In the Department of Commerce, **Robert Cairns**, deputy assistant secretary for science and technology, has resigned. No replacement has been announced for **James H. Wakelin**, assistant secretary for science and technology, who quit several months ago, but a new director has been announced for the National Bureau of Standards. He is **Richard W. Roberts**, a research manager at General Electric.—N.W.