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## Ray To Be AEC Chairperson

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Having dallied with three other candidates for several weeks, the Washington rumor mill accurately forecast AEC commissioner Dixy Lee Ray as the most probable replacement for James R. Schlesinger, the outgoing chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. The White House confirmed her promotion on 6 February and Ray, in turn, issued a brief statement thanking the President, praising Schlesinger and the AEC staff, and vowing to continue the "forward progress he has fostered." Schlesinger has left to head the Central Intelligence Agency and Ray had been serving as acting AEC chairman.

Before settling on Ray as chairman, the White House is said to have sounded out Edward E. David, Jr., the last head of the soon-to-be dismantled Office of Science and Technology; John S. Foster, the Defense Department's chief of R & D; and Harold Agnew, director of the AEC's Los Alamos laboratory. Other sources said it was not the chairmanship of the AEC that Agnew spurned, but the directorship of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

A marine zoologist with a particular interest in environmental affairs, Ray was director of the Pacific Science Center, a teaching museum in Seattle, before her appointment to the AEC last July. At the time, she admitted to being something of a neophyte in nuclear matters, and, accordingly, she has since kept a low public profile as a commissioner, delivering only an occasional speech (mostly without a prepared text) of noncontroversial mein.

Within the AEC, she is said to have busied herself mainly with research policy. While some sources say she has endeavored to "hang back" from controversy while learning the ropes, one congressional acquaintance says he's seen "wisps of smoke from under the door" that would suggest otherwise.

In any case, it is hard to know at this point just how Ray's philosophy and direction of the AEC would differ from Schlesinger's. It is clear, however, that her toughest challenge will be nothing less than holding the AEC intact—if not to mold it into the government's central energy agency—at a time when the prevailing mood in the

Administration favors breaking up the AEC and vesting much of its policy-making authority in a new Department of Natural Resources. At a minimum, by present thinking, the AEC would lose policy, planning, and budget authority over uranium raw materials and enrichment—and possibly over such applied energy R & D as the nearly moribund Plowshare program. At the most, the AEC also stands to lose its authority over civilian reactor R & D, and thus to become a research and regulatory agency subservient to the DNR.—R.G.

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## Citing Female Bar, Brown Won't Dine at Cosmos

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Harrison Brown, Foreign Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), academy member since 1955, and one of the more prominent actors on the science and diplomatic scene, has submitted his resignation to the prestigious Cosmos Club because of the club's continuing refusal to admit women as members. At the annual meeting on 15 January, the club retained this policy by a vote of 274 to 203.

For 95 years, the club has been exclusive meeting-ground for the scientific and political establishment.

In a letter to Philip Abelson, retiring president of the club, Brown added that it would "no longer be possible" for the NAS to use his membership account for hosting overseas guests and holding receptions and dinner meetings at the club. In a telephone interview, Brown estimated that his membership had been used about three times per month in recent years for NAS-related functions at the club's sumptuous mansion at 2121 Massachusetts Avenue, NW.

Moreover, Brown said that he looked "forward . . . to the admission at some future time of our female colleagues. . . . In the meantime, I regret that it will no longer be possible for me to participate in activities sponsored by or held in the Club."

During the winter of 1962-63, the nomination of black journalist Carl Rowan for club membership spurred a dispute over the issue of admission—or inadmission—of blacks as members,

which eventually caused the withdrawal of several prominent members and some prominent nominees for membership, including President John F. Kennedy. Eventually, the members ruled that "the exclusion of any person from membership on account of religion, color, race, or national origin is incompatible with the principles of the Cosmos Club" (*Science*, 27 November 1964).

The move to admit women members was made 2 weeks ago by Carl Bode of the University of Maryland. After defeating the motion, however, the members did vote to allow women the use of the club's front door.

Brown's resignation so far seems to be the only one protesting the recent vote. So, for the meantime, it seems that the Cosmos Club is taking the same view of women and clubs as the famed comedian W. C. Fields, who, when asked his opinion, quipped: "I'm in favor of clubs for women, especially if all other forms of persuasion fail."

—D.S.

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## Steever's Limousine Turns to Pumpkin

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Senator William W. Proxmire (D-Wis.), known as something of an economic maverick, has served notice on 12 agency heads that in fiscal 1974 he will delete funds for the 5917 limousines, "heavy and medium" sedans, chauffeurs, drivers, and motor pool cars used by their agencies. If the Administration can make cutbacks "for low-income housing and programs to aid low-income farmers," Proxmire's statement reasons, then it can tolerate a little less *luxe* at the upper levels. Among those affected (over whom Proxmire has some control because he chairs a relevant appropriations subcommittee) are the Director of the National Science Foundation and officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

But Proxmire, who himself jogs 4.8 miles to work each day, seems to have jogged right over some errors in his announcement: among the groups slated for auto-destruction in fiscal 1974 are two which the Administration has already axed: the Office of Science and Technology and the National Aeronautics and Space Council.—D.S.