

reaucratized institutions of science will in fact be "the major problem for science in the post-industrial society."

The notion of charisma is central to

Bell's understanding of science. He means it not in the hackneyed modern sense of political charm but as the moral authority that sanctions the

overthrow of established traditions. In religion and politics the charisma that justifies the original revolution usually becomes routinized into an establish-

Briefing

Biomedical Leadership and the Waiting Game

According to a familiar saying, all things come to those who wait. Well, it looks as though official leadership of the biomedical community may one day come to Theodore Cooper and Donald S. Fredrickson, if they are prepared to wait long enough. It is common knowledge around Washington that Cooper is slated to become assistant secretary for health in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) and that Fredrickson is first in line for the directorship of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

For the past couple of weeks, the FBI has been calling on the two men's friends and colleagues as part of the investigation that is made of any potential presidential appointee. Because each has passed FBI scrutiny in the past, everyone is presuming that they will again. And everyone is presuming that the only thing now standing in the way of an official announcement from the White House is completion of the FBI check. However, political observers also know that until the President actually sends the nominations to the Senate, which will have to confirm both appointments, there is always the possibility of a change of plan. So, the waiting game goes on and the vacuum at the top of the biomedical ladder persists.

Cooper, who for several years was director of the National Heart and Lung Institute at NIH, left that job in April 1974 to become deputy assistant secretary for health under Charles C. Edwards. Edwards resigned the assistant secretaryship in January of this year.

During the year he has been at HEW, Cooper has acquired a reputation for being a highly efficient administrator with a detailed understanding of the issues with which he is involved. Although reportedly he had the backing of HEW Secretary Caspar Weinberger for promotion, it is apparent he was not the first choice of White House recruiters for the job. A number

of individuals, among them Lewis Thomas, president of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and, reportedly, Fredrickson, himself, were asked to consider the post of assistant secretary for health. Among other things, persons outside the government are reluctant to take a job they cannot reasonably expect to hold for more than 18 months, since it is entirely likely that the person in the post will change after the 1976 presidential election.

It is not clear what the White House recruiters had against simply naming Cooper right after Edwards left, except that he is a registered Democrat. (Fredrickson is a Republican.) At one point, Cooper, who has an evident distaste for endless delays, was ready to pack his bags if the recruiters could not make up their minds.

At present, Fredrickson is president of the Institute of Medicine—National Academy of Sciences, a position he has held for the past 9 months. Prior to going to the IOM, he was scientific director of the heart institute under Cooper. In fact, Fredrickson has spent most of his career at NIH where he gained scientific stature for his work on lipid metabolism and the role of genetics in lipid disorders. Last year, he was elected to membership in the national academy.

For years, Cooper and Fredrickson were considered to be among the top science administrators at NIH, the kind of people who were likely candidates for the director's job. Cooper was a strong contender for the job last time around (it went to Robert Stone who held it from May 1973 until December 1974 when he was fired), and Fredrickson has been asked in the past if he would consider taking the directorship but has declined in order to stay closer to the laboratory.

If and when the appointments come through, it is expected that Cooper and Fredrickson will be able to work together satisfactorily, as they have in the past. Cooper has said he would like to see strong leadership at NIH and Fredrickson is, presumably, prepared to give it.—B.J.C.

Congress Reclaims Strip-Mine Law

On its second major try, Congress appears close to putting a tough federal strip-mining control law on the books. Both the Senate and House have passed strip-mining bills by margins large enough—84–13 in the Senate, 333–86 in the House—to indicate the potential for the two-thirds majority necessary to override a presidential veto. The two houses are expected to reconcile differences in the two versions of the bill in conference when Congress reconvenes after the Easter recess.

Congress passed a similar strip-mining bill late in the last session (Science, 27 December 1974), but the bill perished after adjournment by a pocket veto by President Ford. The measure has been doggedly opposed by the coal industry and its allies on the grounds that its effects would be to increase fuel costs and substantially reduce coal production.

Environmentalists have been particularly active in supporting two main aims of the legislation—protection of water resources in ecologically vulnerable Western coalfields and reclamation of strip-mined areas in hilly Eastern coal regions.

The House version of the bill carries stiff provisions for safeguarding subsurface water resources which could prohibit strip-mining planned in much of coal-rich Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming. The House bill would also forbid mining practices which result in leaving exposed "high wall" expanses on abandoned, hilly strip-mined areas, thus causing erosion and stream pollution through acid mine drainage. The bill also calls for a reclamation program paid for by the industry through a tax on coal production.

Restrictions in the House bill are by and large more severe than in the Senate version; observers on the Hill feel that the conference version will lean to the House side.—J.W.