

tors of major institutions on the scientific scene. This year, for example, the academy elected Harold Brown, the Carter Administration's Secretary of Defense. Goddard says that the process that led to Brown's election was well under way before it was realized that Brown would become Secretary of Defense. Even so, Brown had been out of active research for many years and had largely made his reputation in a series of important administrative posts, including that of director of defense research and engineering for the Pentagon, Secretary of the Air Force, and president of Caltech. He joins a number of other academicians who are probably better known for their administrative accomplishments than for their research contributions, including H. Guyford Stever, former director of the National Science Foundation; James A. Shannon, former director of the National Institutes of Health; and S. Dillon Ripley II, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

The membership of the academy consists primarily of post-middle aged white males from a relatively small number of elite institutions. As of last year, some 60 percent of the members were 60 years or older and another 25.6 percent were 51 to 59. The number of blacks elected has been miniscule (no records are kept of a member's race). And there are currently only some 28 women in a membership of 1219.

Academy officials say the lack of women reflects the lesser role of women in the scientific community at large, but feminists see evidence of male chauvinism at the academy. Years ago the academy was embarrassed by an obvious injustice to the female half of a distinguished research team. In 1940, Carl F. Cori was elected to the academy. In 1947, he and his wife, the late Gerty T. Cori, shared a Nobel prize in physiology or medicine with an Argentine scientist. In 1948, the academy belatedly woke up and elected Gerty to membership. Similarly, partisans of anthropologist Margaret Mead were annoyed for years that she had not made the academy, but were mollified when she finally won election in 1975. In the most recent election, 4 of the 60 new members were women.

Geographically, according to Goddard, the academy members are concentrated in three areas—the eastern seaboard between Washington, D.C., and Cambridge, Massachusetts; the state of California; and a midwestern region that includes Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and areas immediately adjacent. As of 1976, 12 states had no members at all—Alaska, Arkansas, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana,

North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wyoming. The academy says its membership reflects the distribution of scientific talent in the country, but scientists from some of the have-not states find it hard to believe there is not a single scientist in their areas who is as good as some of the academy members.

There appear to be no up-to-date analyses of the institutional affiliations of academy members. A computer print-out that tabulates the number of academicians who were employed full time at various universities in October 1976 reveals that Harvard had the greatest number, 98, followed by Berkeley, 67; MIT, 64; Stanford, 51; the University of Chicago, 45; Caltech, 44; Rockefeller University, 39; University of California at San Diego, 34; University of Wisconsin, 31; and Yale, 27. Just missing the top ten were Cornell and Illinois, with 24 apiece. This year the rich got richer. Harvard claimed the most new members (6), followed by Stanford (5) and MIT (4). Also this year Bell Laboratories, the National Institutes of Health, and the University of California at Los Angeles had three apiece.

By most accounts, election to the academy is second only to the Nobel in

the esteem accorded to it by most of the American scientific community. Universities boast of the number of academicians on their faculties, and the individual who wins membership in the academy is said to have an enhanced bargaining position when it comes time to bargain for a new job or a higher salary. Thus the elaborate, closely guarded elections process excites considerable interest and speculation among the upwardly mobile segment of the scientific community that aspires to academy membership. "I'll probably be criticized by some members for even talking to you," Goddard told *Science* as he launched into a description of how the process works.

As Goddard sees it, there are two main elements—the process by which an individual is nominated, and the process of election. The chief role in nominations is played by the academy's 23 disciplinary sections—covering such areas as mathematics, physics, genetics, and economic sciences—to which academy members are assigned at their own choice. The existing members of a section generate the names of new candidates for membership, review a list of each candidate's most important scientific articles and a 250-word summary of his major accom-

## Califano Takes Richmond

Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) Secretary Joseph A. Califano Jr., who has been trying to get an assistant secretary for health ever since January, has persuaded Harvard psychiatrist Julius B. Richmond, 60, to take the job. Word that Richmond is to be nominated came only days after Christopher C. Fordham III, who was slated for the position, abruptly withdrew following a dispute with Califano (*Science*, 6 May). All in all, Califano's search for an assistant secretary has not gone terribly well. The first persons to whom he offered the job turned him down, in part because he has greatly diminished its influence. So now, 4 months into the new Administration, there is a lot riding on Richmond's taking the job and staying.

Richmond already had ties to the Carter Administration as a member of the President's Commission on Mental Health, so he comes to HEW as a known quantity. In addition, he has Washington ties from the Kennedy and Johnson years, when he was associated with the Office of Economic Opportunity and served as the first director of Project Head Start, the program to help disadvantaged children by starting their education early—in pre-kindergarten years.

Richmond, who holds professorships in child psychiatry and human development and in preventive and social medicine at Harvard, is also director of the Judge Baker Guidance Center for disturbed children and adolescents. In addition to his interests in mental health, he has developed an interest in policy issues involving medical care and medical education. He was, for example, chairman of a study on the cost of medical education that the Institute of Medicine—National Academy of Sciences did for Congress about a year ago. Richmond, who is well regarded in medical circles, surprised his colleagues by accepting the assistant secretaryship. "I don't know how he did it, but Califano pulled off a brilliant maneuver," said one of Richmond's admirers. "I guess Julie just wanted a change of scene," said another. The question now is whether he'll like it.—B.J.C.