Carter Remarks Provide Clues to Attitude on Science Advice

Swearing-in ceremonies in Washington are part of the psychic fringe benefits for top appointive officials. They give the appointee a place, if briefly, in the presidential sun and, according to where the event is held and what the President says, can be read as auguries of good or ill fortune. For three of the Carter Administration's science hierarchs sworn in together on 1 June in the White House Rose Garden the signs seem favorable.

Taking oath of office in a triple ceremony were Richard C. Atkinson, as National Science Foundation director, and two White House advisers, Frank Press, as director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Peter Bourne as director of the Office of Drug Abuse Policy (ODAP).

Speaking without notes, the President showed himself thoroughly familiar with the backgrounds of the three and at ease with the subjects with which they deal.

As he concluded his informal remarks, Carter alluded to the estrangement of science from the White House in the early 1970's as follows:

"So this is a morning when we are taking a great step forward in recementing the relationship between scientific knowledge, the probing of new areas of human comprehension on the one hand, and the political application of that knowledge on the other, for the benefit of all mankind and womankind."

There was a slight pause before the phrase "and womankind," as if the addition might have been prompted by the presence of Mary King, Bourne's wife. King is a member of the Carter Administration in her own right as deputy director of Action and has a reputation as a resolute feminist.

Bourne headed Georgia's drug abuse program when Carter was governor. At the swearing-in ceremony, the President said that Bourne "is one of the best personal friends I have in the world." He said he thought that Bourne has become perhaps "the world's foremost expert on drugs; their origin, their processing, their sale, their use, their effect on the human body, how they might be controlled." Bourne served in the White House Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention during the Nixon Administration.

ODAP, which Bourne directs, is a new arrival on the Executive Office scene, but its origins precede the Carter Administration. ODAP was created by legislation passed last summer, but the office was never activated by President Ford.

ODAP has the responsibility of coordinating drug policy for all agencies and is charged with overseeing all aspects of federal drug laws from enforcement through rehabilitation. The office will have a staff of about ten.

Bourne will continue to serve as Special Assistant to the President for Health Issues. At the swearing in, Carter said, "Dr. Bourne is also an expert on medicine and gives me and Joe Califano [Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare] a great deal of help in determining the policies for the future in that field."

In general, Carter's remarks confirmed the impression that he intends to draw on a variety of sources for advice on scientific and technical problems. He noted, in in-

White House Photo

At swearing-in ceremony in White House Rose Garden are (left to right), Richard C. Atkinson and Mrs. Atkinson, Judge David A. Bazelon, President Carter, Frank Press and Mrs. Press, Representative Paul G. Rogers (D–Fla.), Peter Bourne and Mary King.

troducing Science Adviser Press, for example, that Department of Defense Secretary Harold Brown "is well qualified in physics and I particularly wanted someone to help me who had a broader scope of understanding.

"And as you know, Dr. Frank Press is an expert on earth sciences. He is one of those who has been able to form a close working relationship with the scientific community in the Soviet Union. He has been widely respected throughout the world for his work in seismographic determinations and did the basic planning for the method that we [use] to monitor compliance with nuclear explosives set off beneath the earth's surface.

"In the few weeks that Frank Press has been here in the White House working with me, I have really been favorably impressed and gratified at the broad range of his understanding on scientific matters. . . .

"He attends Cabinet meetings. He attends the senior staff meetings. And whether it might be new weapons systems, scientific aspects of the SALT negotiations, problems with defense experimentations that might lead to new opportunities there, or whether it involves problems with weather determination or in many instances problems involving social sciences, he has been very helpful in helping me make the right decisions."

With most of the principal posts filled on the science side of the Administration, the next question is how the impending reorganization of government will affect the offices and officeholders. A team headed by Atlanta banker A. D. Frazier has been working since the Inauguration on a reorganization of the Executive Office of the President (EOP), which includes OSTP, ODAP, and the Office of Management and Budget among its dozen offices.

The target date for completion of the work was around 1 June, but the timing has slipped a week or so. Recommendations are expected to be sent to Carter imminently. The plan will be amended according to the President's reactions and then converted into a legislative package to be sent to Congress for action, probably by the end of June.

Earlier reports indicated that consideration was being given to melding OSTP into a new structure in the EOP (*Science*, 13 May) with a consequent loss of separate identity. The betting now is that OSTP will survive the reorganization without any sort of merger that would submerge it.

—JOHN WALSH

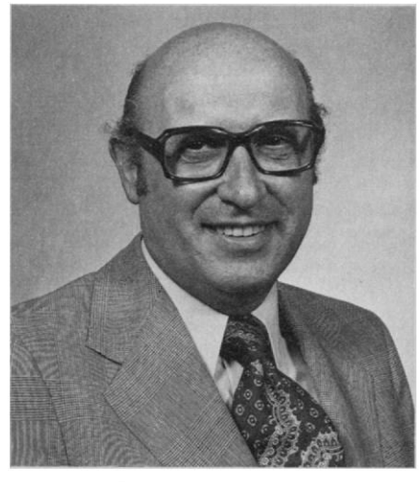
Space Chief Nominee Stresses Need for "Good Science"

Most administrators of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, especially when they take office, find themselves between a rock and a hard place. If they talk too much about NASA's undertaking major engineering feats, such as the manned lunar landing or the space shuttle, the scientists who depend on NASA for research support get nervous about being shortchanged. But if the new administrator talks too much about the importance of science, friends of the agency yearning for yet another space spectacular will criticize him for being too timid.

Robert A. Frosch, former Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research and Development, and former assistant executive director of the United Nations Environment Program, and former Woods Hole associate director, is about to be confirmed as NASA's fifth administrator. Frosch, who at age 28 became director of Columbia University's Hudson Laboratories, probably has more experience in research administration than any of his NASA predecessors, and, in his initial public statements anyway, he seems to be stressing science.

"I'd like to be remembered as the guy who was able to help NASA imagine new uses for space and aeronautics and who helped the agency do good science," Frosch told *Science* in an interview prior to his confirmation hearings before the Senate on 6 June. He said that he sees NASA—which, since the 1969 manned lunar landing, has been called an agency in search of a mission—as primarily "a research and technology agency."

This is music to the ears of research-



Dr. Robert A. Frosch

ers, but it may be hard to implement. Congress is becoming more skeptical of the space agency and the Administration is still uncommitted on the space agency's future.

"I don't think we'll have a single major goal like going to the moon in the next few years," says Frosch. "Of central importance to NASA will be the whole, changing understanding of the earth that is developing with the assistance of space, in terms of land use, agriculture, the oceans, and the interest in the effect of climatic change on the food supply."

Frosch thinks there will be less of the traditional competition between science and engineering in the agency during his prospective tenure, partly because, as luck would have it, funds for the space shuttle will reach a peak in fiscal 1978 and taper off afterward. The space shuttle is the agency's major technology program, which, in 1978, will gobble up $1.5 billion, or nearly half of the agency's budget. Frosch also notes that as it becomes operational the shuttle will offer many opportunities for scientists, such as when it launches the large space telescope (LST), a major new astronomy initiative, in 1983.

But Frosch also has an eye on the engineering and applications aspects of NASA's programs. He claims that his background is, in fact, as much engineering as science. (A theoretical physicist by training, Frosch went from the Hudson Laboratories to the Advanced Research Projects Agency to cover nuclear test detection, and then moved to the Navy.) He says he would like to see