Be it opportunism or the evolution of a sincere Christian ministry, it may be in trouble. An injunction would shut down the City of Faith hospital even after it was completed. And for the wider ministry of the Chosen Man, the rise to worldly power and the storm surrounding the City of Faith may have already shaken his empire more than the closing of a building ever could. It is, after all, the partners and the potential partners who send in the cash. "I don't understand what he's doing these days," says a woman who has followed Roberts' ministry for many years. "All that show business on his television program and now that hospital. I just hope he's right with God."—WILLIAM J. BROAD

Science Projects Face Cuts, Cancellations

Both Congress and Carter are under heavy pressure to cut the federal budget for science

The metamorphosis of the budget for next year's scientific research and development is taking an unusual turn this year, in part because of the 20 percent inflation rate and the approaching federal election. Congress, acting in concert with the Carter Administration, is planning to knock out the inflation-proof increases in R & D and basic research funds promised only 2 months ago.

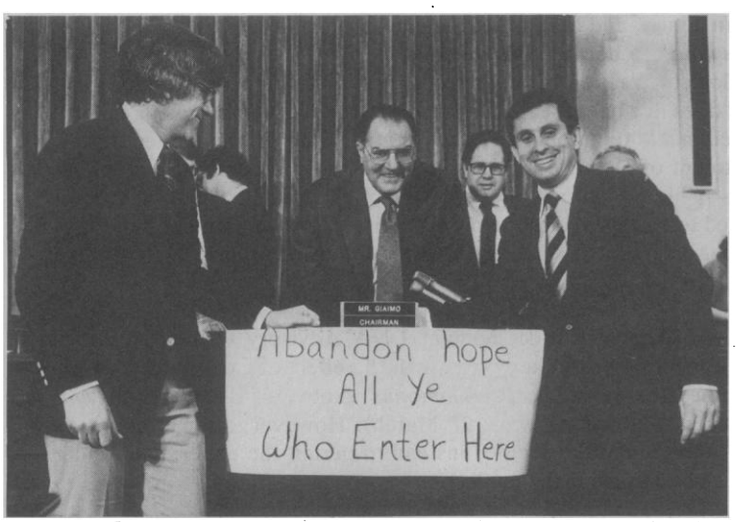
Recently, Carter proposed reductions in his earlier estimates; these reductions will severely restrict the budgets of all but two science agencies and will undo many of the gains achieved last year. Between rescissions in the present year and reductions in the next, science programs will lose $1.4 billion for R & D, and $210 million in basic research alone. R & D next year will increase only 0.5 percent beyond this year's estimated rate of inflation, while the purchasing power of basic research funds will actually decline by 2.3 percent.

Confirming an oft-stated concern of the scientific community, basic research suffered proportionately more than general R & D in the budget-cutting exercise (declining 3.8 percent as opposed to 2.9 percent). The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) experienced the sharpest proportional declines, as well as cancellations and deferrals of major programs. NSF, for example, lost $64 million (a drop of 6.5 percent, leaving a 10.5 percent increase), which will forestall its plans to upgrade academic research facilities, its proposed funding for a mathematical research institute, half of its Soviet-U.S. science exchange funding, and its entire 25-meter telescope project to search for atmospheric amino acids. NASA lost $219 million, mostly in space science and applications, and will delay its solar polar mission for 2 years (until 1985), its earth radiation experiment for 1 year, and its early Spacelab experiments for 2 years.

Only two agencies will experience real growth in their 1981 research budgets under Carter's proposal: the Department of Defense and NSF. The budget of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will decline by 6.9 percent in purchasing power. Recently the Administration imposed cuts in 1981 construction money for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the National Eye Institute, overall intramural research, research resources, support for four new research centers, and training grants. These cuts were made in lieu of reducing the funds necessary for maintenance of the institutes' new stabilized grant system.

In general, Administration officials say those programs initially slated for large increases were the most vulnerable to reductions in the feverish atmosphere of the last few weeks—a new twist on the Administration's much-vaunted zero-base budgeting techniques. For example, the National Cancer Institute's program to test suspect chemical carcinogens proved easy picking for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), merely because it was slated for an infusion of $23 million. For similar reasons, OMB took a hefty chunk out of the Department of Defense's laser weapons program, NSF's ocean margins drilling program, the Department of Energy's (DOE) coal gasification program, and the Department of Transportation's cooperative program of automobile research. In this manner, interest groups who fought for these new initiatives had their hard-won gains almost arbitrarily knocked out or reduced.

The space science community apparently put up such a fuss while the Administration was deliberating that the agency was spared more drastic cuts; its agricultural and oceanic satellite systems, the Galileo Jupiter orbiter, the space telescope, and the new gamma-ray observatory project all emerged unscathed after the White House received telephone calls, telegrams, and letters from space scientists. Frank Press, the White House science adviser, insists "The earlier scare stories [about NASA] just were not the case," although they generated much outside interest. One reason for worry was that the funding for the space shuttle



Members of the House budget committee announced their cuts last month.

AP Photo

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was judged untouchable early on, so NASA's cuts had to be taken elsewhere.

A similar dilemma occurred at the Department of Health and Human Services, which contains vast uncontrollable social welfare accounts; half of its controllable money is in NIH. The institutes lost $132 million in the reductions, mostly in the NCI, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. The wounded might take solace in the fact that non-science programs among the controllable items in the federal budget fared even worse.

The cuts are mere guidelines, moreover, and pressure groups have as recourse sympathetic members of the House and Senate authorizing and appropriations committees. Already, there are signs these committees will go their own way. Both the Senate and the House Armed Services committees, for example, have voted for increases in military research and advanced technology far in excess of what the budget committees and Carter had specified. The House science committee has voted once again in favor of completing the Clinch River breeder reactor, which Carter wants killed. And the House has thus far ignored a Carter- and budget committee-sponsored rescission of capitation grants for medical schools.

It is equally clear that Congress is under extraordinary pressure this year to resist the entreatments of lobbyists, because of the inflation rate and the approaching elections. Some congressmen will demand that science pass a test of direct usefulness. As the House budget committee writes: "On the one hand basic research and science are fundamental to increasing productivity and to the future well-being of the nation. However, some of these programs are lower in priority than others in terms of their contributions to productivity, and thus better able to absorb a pause in growth. This is probably true, for example, of those NSF programs that could be referred to as 'soft' sciences; DOE high energy physics research; and certain nonshuttle research in NASA."

There is also greater effort in Congress to adhere to the spending limits already set by the budget committees, many of which are near the President's revised estimates. In the House, budget chairman Robert Giaimo (D-Conn.) is proposing to enforce his committee's guidelines through parliamentary maneuvers and legislative amendment. Recently 16 House committee chairmen, including Don Fuqua (D-Fla.) of the science and technology committee, sent a note to Speaker Tip O'Neill accusing the budget members of usurping their responsibility.

About the only consolation available to those whose programs do not survive the congressional gauntlet is that many of the cuts are evidently intended to be short-term measures, lasting until the next fiscal season. "We hope to get back to all of these programs," said Frank Press in announcing the Carter reductions on 2 April. "This is a pause or a holding pattern that we must endure because of the larger goal" of balancing the overall budget, he said. Sure enough, most programs have merely been delayed, not canceled. Carter has asked for a delay in the construction of a new headquarters for the Solar Electric Research Institute, for example, for slowed accelerator work at Illinois, Stony Brook, and Stanford, and for reduced spending on new innovation programs. Few programs were eliminated, with the exception of the solar power satellite study, in the Department of Energy. The Senate budget committee has separately asked for a delay in construction of the intersecting storage accelerator at Brookhaven, and for a 1-year delay in the President's initial proposal of 5 percent real growth in some of the programs at NSF. Similarly, both the Senate and the House asked for a full or partial deferral of funds for the proposed federal superfund to clean up hazardous waste disposal sites.

No science agency was as successful as the Environmental Protection Agency in escaping the budget ax. EPA's grant program for sewage treatment plants was substantially reduced, but disbursement of funds had been lagging anyway. At the same time, the agency's budget for operating programs, including an increase in 1981, remained intact.

Whether any of these programs will remain intact after Congress has completed its deliberations is anyone's guess. The members presumably found significant enthusiasm for fiscal restraint among their constituents during the Easter recess. Now it will be a contest between the folks back home and the lobbyists pressing their case in Washington.—R. JEFFREY SMITH

Budget Cut Details

"It is President Carter's view that research is one of those priorities . . . related to problems of innovation and productivity," says Frank Press, the White House science adviser. "We tried to reflect our philosophy toward research in this budget reassessment."

Here are some details of Carter's reductions and how they conflict with the proposals of the House and Senate budget committees:

Defense. Carter has reduced or canceled increases he had planned in Air Force studies, electromagnetic pulse modification of B-52's, laser weapons testing, and a shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missile system, among other areas, for a total reduction of $222 million in R & D. The Senate has added substantial sums to the President's initial January proposal, including more funds for strategic air defense, improvements of the Trident missile, and more shipbuilding. The House has suggested unspecified line item reductions and a slowdown in the MX missile basing system.

Energy. The President has ordered a $116 million reduction in R & D from his initial proposal, including across-the-board reductions in electric vehicles research, magnetic fusion, reduced purchases of solar equipment, and a deferral of the Solar Energy & Conservation Bank. The Senate concurs with a delay in construction of a uranium enrichment plant at Portsmouth, Ohio, and reductions in solar energy, fossil energy, biomass, and energy information programs. The House proposes to cancel or defer 25 major energy supply demonstration programs, keeping the overall budget at the present level.

Other programs. Carter has proposed small reductions—in the range of $5 to $10 million in the research programs of agencies such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of Education, and the Department of the Interior. Contrary to what *Science* said last week, NOAA's budget has not been cut by $100 million.

Overall spending. Carter has proposed a 15 percent cut in each agency's use of consultants, with peer review panels presumably exempt. Air travel and administrative expenses will probably decline; the Senate has proposed a 5 percent across-the-board cut in administrative costs.—R.J.S.