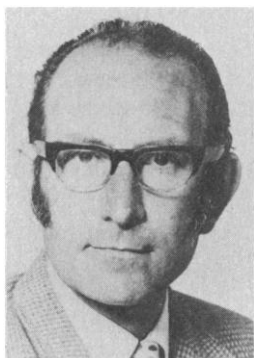


each of five areas of science. On 15 September the foundation announced this year's winners. In medicine, the prize went to Milstein and two others: Leo Sachs of the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel, and James Gowans, secretary of Britain's Medical Research Council. Like all winners



**César
Milstein**

of the Wolf prizes, they were chosen by an unidentified panel of their peers, which cited the three for their "contributions to the knowledge of the function and disfunction of the body cells, . . . the development of specific antibodies, and the elucidation of mechanisms governing the control of and differentiation of normal and cancer cells."

The other winners of the Wolf prizes this year were Karl Maramorosh of Rutgers University, in agriculture; Henri Cartan of the Université de Paris and Andrei Kolmogorov of the Moscow State University, in mathematics; Henry Eyring of the University of Utah, in chemistry; and Michael Fisher of Cornell University, Leo Kadanoff of Brown University, and Kenneth Wilson of Cornell, in physics.

Westinghouse Feels Impact of Declining Demand

The world's largest and most successful maker of nuclear power plants, the Westinghouse Corporation, has been stung recently by the declining demand for electrical power. The company announced on 29 September that by the end of next year it would close a nuclear steam generator fabrication plant in Tampa, Florida, and dismiss 1000 employees. The cutback was decided upon, according to spokesman J. P. Daley, after Westinghouse concluded that de-

mand for electrical power in the United States has gone into a period of stagnation.

Daley emphasized that the popular agitation against nuclear power had nothing to do with the change in the market. The problem, he said, was the oil embargo of 1973 and the OPEC price increases for oil. The cost of electricity has increased as a result, and this has driven ratepayers to consume less. The annual rate of increase in the use of electricity in this country has been halved since the embargo, from 7 percent to 3.5 percent.

Electric utilities have slowed the construction of new facilities and postponed ordering new plants. During the early 1970's, dozens of nuclear generators were ordered each year. In 1979 and 1980, utilities have failed to order even one new reactor. Despite this slowdown, the nation has on average an excess generating capacity of 35 percent. "Nobody's guessing when the domestic market will revive," Daley says.

Business is not bad for Westinghouse, however. The company is working on a backlog of orders valued at \$4 billion, half of it for fuel supplies. In addition, major expansions are planned for the training and strategic operations divisions, providing safety-related services which have come into demand as a result of the accident at Three Mile Island.

Disease Center Will Fund Love Canal Research

The White House has decided, for this fiscal year at least, that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will not have primary control over studies of how human health is affected by exposure to hazardous waste dumps. The EPA had asked for funding this year to pay for studies of people living near two chemical burial grounds, one at Love Canal, New York, and the other in Memphis, Tennessee. The Office of Management and Budget declined the agency's request in September, after deliberations that went on all summer. Instead, the funds will be channeled through the Department of Health and Human Services directly to the Center

for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta.

The decision grows out of a flap which arose earlier this year over a study of chromosome breakage among the residents of Love Canal. That research was commissioned and released by the EPA. It reported a higher than average incidence of genetic damage among the people of Love Canal and thereby caused a panic. Though the much disputed study may have been accurate enough as far as it went, the protocol had a grievous defect—lack of controls—which arose from the fact that it was shaped according to the requirements of lawyers at the Department of Justice instead of according to scientific principles.

Carter Administration officials say that the recent decision on funding for studies of health effects should not be interpreted as a slap at the EPA. "It's just an accounting decision," says Denis Prager of the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy. "The EPA did a pretty reasonable job in a situation where there were no ground rules," he added. The "knee-jerk reaction" is that the EPA fouled up, but, "I would prefer to say the federal government didn't do as good a job as it might."

Negotiations are now in progress to come up with the ground rules that were so notably lacking earlier this year. The EPA Administrator Douglas Costle has met once with Health and Human Services Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris. They and their subordinates have been trying since August to draw jurisdictional lines through the toxic waste disaster. So far, an EPA official says, "they have not gotten down to the nitty gritty." In Prager's words, "there is no policy." It has been extraordinarily hard, it seems, just to get people together in one room during this campaign season. Nothing much will happen before November, one senses.

Meanwhile, a staffer in the chronic diseases division of the CDC says he is still "anxiously awaiting the word from the budget people" on the funding of research on health effects. He would like to give the go-ahead to a \$5 million study at Love Canal to be sponsored jointly by CDC and the medical school of the State University of New York at Buffalo. The White House has not yet processed the request.

Eliot Marshall