

says that the debarment rule will rarely be used.

Another part of the rule that worries universities is a provision in which the secretary can immediately suspend funds to an institution or an individual. The provision is "very bothersome," says Lindsey Kiang, general counsel at Yale. He says that suspension, in effect, is the equivalent of debarment, except that it shifts the burden of proof from the secretary to the institution.

Metterer says it would be even more unusual for the department to suspend an individual or institution than to debar them. Then why the rule? Metterer says that it is important that the secretary have this power ready for unpredictable circumstances.

## NAS Hopes to Meet Soviets on Arms Control

The National Academy of Sciences has formed an arms control committee which hopes to meet with a similar council established last year by leading Soviet scientists.

The Committee of International Security and Arms Control has already proposed to its Soviet counterpart that the two groups meet. "We've received positive signals from the Soviets, but we're still waiting for a definite reply," said Marvin Goldberger, president of California Institute of Technology and committee chairman.

The idea to form the committee was prompted by several concerns. Since the 1950's, Pugwash conference has provided an international forum for informal scientific discussions of arms control. During the past few years, however, many say that the group has lost momentum. Academy president Philip Handler says fewer scientists who are from the private sector and have influence in government are participating in Pugwash. Pugwash has reduced its attention to arms control, Handler says, because it now is focusing on the problems of developing countries as well.

Pugwash council member Bernard Feld of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology says that the "emphasis of Pugwash remains with arms control. The most dangerous potential nuclear conflicts are with the third world.

You have to involve the scientific community in the third world."

The committee plans to hold bilateral discussion with foreign countries. Pugwash has taken a multilateral approach.

Feld says that the committee's bilateral approach is too narrow. "It's one thing to sit down and discuss specifics and another to take a broad view. The two groups will have to work together."

Other problems that gave rise to the committee are the slowdown in SALT talks and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Goldberger said.

## DeWitt, Livermore Lab Patch Up over *Progressive*

"I'm immensely relieved" Hugh E. DeWitt said buoyantly.

After 13 months of dispute between DeWitt and his employer, Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, over events related to the *Progressive* magazine



**Hugh DeWitt: He's cleared**

case, the two parties have reached a settlement. DeWitt, a theoretical physicist, has been fighting disciplinary action taken by the lab for his participation in the case (*Science*, 24 October).

The laboratory contended that DeWitt mishandled possible classified information when he submitted affidavits on behalf of *Progressive* magazine, which was charged with divulging H-bomb secrets. The laboratory then issued a letter of warning to

DeWitt and placed it in his personnel file. DeWitt maintained that the letter would harm his career.

In the settlement announced 17 October DeWitt acknowledged that he should have cleared his affidavits with the classification office. In turn, Livermore agreed to remove the warning notice from the scientist's file.

Although DeWitt is happy with his employer's actions, he is still frustrated with the Department of Energy's handling of classified material. "The classification procedures are hopelessly out of date," he said.

The dispute also taught him to "be careful of rules and regulations. It's a lesson in self-preservation. But that's a minor matter," he said.

## It's Official: Press Nominated to Head NAS

Frank Press, the science adviser to President Carter, has been formally nominated to be the next president of the National Academy of Sciences, succeeding Philip Handler.

His nomination had been expected (*Science*, 24 October) but was officially approved 26 October by the Academy's council. Traditionally, the council's nominee is almost always elected.

The Academy was concerned that Press's present job would pose problems under the Ethics in Government Act which limits future dealings of senior government officials with agencies they leave. After consulting with private and government lawyers, the Academy concluded that there would be no substantial conflict of interest.

The Academy also asked advisers to Ronald Reagan to check if Press would be acceptable to a Republican Administration. Press was given a nod of approval.

Two candidates for the Academy's vice presidency were also nominated: They are Jacob Bigeleisen, a chemist who is vice president for research at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and biologist James Ebert, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Election ballots will be mailed out 15 December and are to be returned 1 month later. The new president takes office 1 July.

**Marjorie Sun**