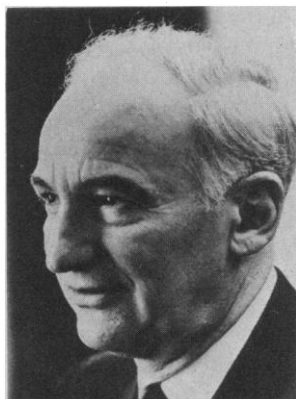


dent's Science Advisory Committee revived, for he thinks the President would find it valuable to have some fearless elders on hand, people with great practical experience but no political or bureaucratic allegiances. Ramo did not know how his colleagues would receive these suggestions; he has not met with them yet.



TRW Photo

Simon Ramo: The "R" of TRW

In addition to Ramo and Bueche, the task force includes Harold Agnew, president of the General Atomic Company and former director of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory; William Baker, former chairman of the board of Bell Telephone Laboratories; Edward David, president of Exxon Research and Engineering; Franklin Murphy, chairman of the board of the Times Mirror Company; William Nirenberg, director of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography; Lewis Sarett, senior vice president for science and technology at Merck and Company; General Bernard Schriever, former chief of the Air Force Systems Command; Frederick Seitz, president emeritus of Rockefeller University and former president of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS); H. Guyford Stever, former science adviser and National Science Foundation director under Presidents Nixon and Ford; Wilson Talley, professor of applied sciences at the University of California at Davis; Edward Teller, senior research fellow at the Hoover Institution; Teddy Walkowicz, president of the National Aviation and Technology Corporation; and Albert Wheelon, a vice president of Hughes Aircraft and consultant to the NAS and the National Security Council.

It is hard to guess how much influence advisers like these will have dur-

ing the transition. It is plain, however, that the outside experts need not fear they will be given too heavy a burden of responsibility, for they will have a lot of company. At last count, the President-elect had gathered together 23 domestic advisory task forces and 25 foreign or defense groups, sheltering a total of 329 elder statespersons. "You name it," a Reagan aide said last week, "and we have a task force on it."

Congress Begins the Republican Shuffle

The Reagan landslide shook the House leadership and rattled the Senate to its foundations, striking many familiar names from Congress's roster. There will be changes among the committees, but at first glance no major changes seem imminent for science policy. The new chairmen will surely bring new pet projects with them, however.

"It was a bloody spectacle," said a Democrat on the staff of the House Committee on Science and Technology. "We lost three subcommittee chairmen." Indeed, the voters turned out Mike McCormack (D-Wash.), chairman of the energy research and production subcommittee, a backer of nuclear and fusion power; James Lloyd (D-Calif.), chairman of the investigations and oversight subcommittee; and Jerome Ambro (D-N.Y.), chairman of the natural resources and environment subcommittee.

Rumor has it that the committee may lose two more subcommittee chairmen when the leadership begins assigning members to new posts. Richard Ottinger (D-N.Y.), chairman of the subcommittee on energy development and applications and a friend of solar power, may want to take over a subcommittee on the Commerce Committee. Thomas Harkin (D-Iowa), chairman of the transportation, aviation, and communication subcommittee, may want to do the same on Agriculture. Since House rules permit only one such post per member, these two may give up their chairmanships on the Science Committee, leaving only two out of seven chairmanships unchanged. These are held

by George Brown (D-Calif.), who heads the subcommittee on science, research, and technology, and by Don Fuqua (D-Fla.), who chairs the full committee and the subcommittee on space science.

Similar but smaller shifts are expected on the House Commerce Committee. The chairman, Harley Staggers (D-W. Va.), has retired, leaving his place open to the next ranked Democrat, John Dingell of Michigan. If Dingell takes it, as seems likely, he may decide to give up his own chairmanship of the subcommittee on energy and power. New chairmen will be needed for the oversight and communications subcommittees to replace defeated incumbents Bob Eckhardt of Texas and Lionel Van Deerlin of California.

Because the surviving House Democrats will have many assignments to choose from, it will take time—perhaps 3 months, one aide guessed—to work out the new lines of authority. The puzzle is far more complex in the Senate, where the Republicans hold the majority (by 53 to 46) for the first time in a quarter of a century. This permits them to run the Senate's machinery and chair the committees.

In all, 12 Democrats have gone, some voluntarily. Edmund Muskie of Maine, a key supporter of environmental legislation, leaves office as Secretary of State in the defeated Administration. Adlai Stevenson III of Illinois, chairman of the Commerce subcommittee on science, technology, and space, will retire after this term. Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut, chairman of the Government Operations Committee, also retires.

It is too early to anticipate what the Republican Senate will look like. But an aide to Senator Stevenson says that despite the Democrats' misery, the outlook is "far from bleak" for science. Stevenson may be replaced on his science subcommittee by ex-astronaut Harrison Schmitt (R-N.M.), who favors well-financed space programs. And William Proxmire (D-Wis.), the harrier of the National Science Foundation (NSF), may be replaced by Charles Mathias (R-Md.), considered a generous friend by NSF. There are no obvious candidates waiting to replace Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) as chairman of the Senate subcommittee on health and scientific research.

Eliot Marshall