

state, and about \$3 billion worth of integrated circuits are manufactured in California each year. But, Brown pointed out in his State of the State address last month, "Other states are trying to persuade many of our high-technology companies to expand outside of California, and the industries themselves face aggressive competition from imports."

So far, the proposal has been welcomed by university spokesmen and representatives from the microelectronics industry in California.

Geological Survey Chief Lost in Transition

When the Carter Administration fired Vincent McKelvey as director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in 1977, the move prompted a hue and cry that one of the country's oldest federal science agencies was being "politicized" (*Science*, 23 September, 1977). The Reagan Administration has now terminated the appointment of McKelvey's successor, H. William Menard, and the same concerns have arisen again.

Menard, who was told on 26 January that he would not be kept on by the Reagan Administration, has said that his removal "shows that all my efforts to convince the transition team that this was an apolitical job were unsuccessful."

There is nothing inherently unusual about the ouster of two USGS directors in 4 years. The post is filled by presidential appointment and, like thousands of other federal officials, the Survey chief submits his resignation at the end of each presidential term. But when McKelvey was removed in the first few months of the Carter Administration, it was the first time in almost a century that a new President had decided that a change was needed at the head of the USGS.

McKelvey's departure sparked speculation that he was fired because his views on domestic oil and gas reserves did not mesh with those of the Administration. An alternative explanation was simply that his personal style was incompatible with that of his boss, former Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus. Whatever the reason, the episode raised concern

among geologists that the USGS was losing its traditional political independence. In particular, it was feared that the Survey's estimates of domestic oil and gas reserves would become less credible if there was any suspicion that they are shaped to fit Administration energy policy.

The appointment of Menard allayed some of those fears. A respected marine geologist from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Menard came to the USGS with the blessing of the National Academy of Sciences, which had assisted in his selection. He reorganized some of the Survey's internal divisions, instituted new budgetary and auditing procedures, and encouraged long-term planning. Some of these moves tended to "rile up the old guard" in the Survey, according to one of Menard's colleagues, but there was little evidence that the USGS had bent to the political will of the Carter Administration during Menard's stewardship. Menard himself says that as far as resource estimates are concerned, "We knew that some of the things we turned up with would not go down well, but there was never any suggestion that we change the numbers."

So why was Menard removed by the incoming Administration? The most likely explanation is that he was simply a victim of wholesale housecleaning in the Department of Interior. During the election campaign, Ronald Reagan heaped criticism on the department for being more concerned with conserving resources than with exploiting them. The new secretary of Interior, James G. Watt has pledged to reorder Interior's policies, and within a week of taking office he removed the heads of all the principal agencies in the department with the exception of the director of the National Park Service. Menard was among the casualties.

Menard said he was notified at noon on 26 January that his resignation had been accepted, and he was told to clean off his desk by the end of the day. A senior research position has been created for him within the Survey, and he says that he will take that until he decides what to do. He is technically still on leave from the University of California, and could return there by 1 July.

Having demonstrated that the head of the USGS is indeed a political job,

Watt has taken steps to allay some of the concerns in the geological research community. Three days after removing Menard, Watt announced that he has asked the National Academy of Sciences to draw up a list of candidates for the job. Noting that the USGS has "an outstanding record for scientific excellence and professional integrity," Watt said that he is looking for "a highly qualified earth scientist" to carry on the good work. The Academy has traditionally helped select the USGS director.

Whether a highly qualified earth scientist can be lured to Washington for a job of uncertain duration remains to be seen.

Youth and Loyalty at OMB

David Stockman, the former Michigan Congressman who now serves as President Reagan's budget director, has appointed two of his congressional assistants to positions with influence over federal research and development spending.

Frederick Khedouri, a 30-year-old lawyer who was Stockman's chief legislative aide, has been named associate director of the Office of Management and Budget with jurisdiction over energy, natural resources, and science programs. Under his purview are the budgets for the Departments of Energy and Interior, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation. The job was held in the Carter Administration by Katherine Schirmer.

The other major scientific post in OMB, associate director for health and human resources, has gone to Donald W. Moran, 29, who also served as a legislative assistant to Stockman when he was in Congress. Moran's responsibilities include the budget of the National Institutes of Health. He replaces Gilbert Omenn.

Neither Khedouri nor Moran have had much experience in science policy matters, although Khedouri worked on a study of uranium enrichment policy for the Natural Resources Defense Council in 1976. Moran ran employment and training programs in Michigan before joining Stockman's congressional staff.

Colin Norman