research is small given the track record of scientists so far. But this modicum of uncertainty elicited a different response from others. The reason Gottesman proposed her version of mandatory guidelines is that a few types of experiments, in her opinion, still warrant oversight. "If they are to be watched, then it makes sense to make the guidelines mandatory," she said. Others concurred, arguing that until more data become available on risks associated with the small number of experiments, it is better to err on the side of caution. Elena Nightingale of the Institute of Medicine said, "We should keep in mind that the probability of something going wrong is small, but . . . [if something goes wrong] the consequences are large. A powerful technology has powerful consequences."

Although the committee voted in favor of Gottesman's proposal primarily because of its mandatory requirement, it also found other provisions attractive. The proposal retains institutional biosafety committees, which the RAC proposal eliminated. The members seemed to agree that the groups have provided a useful forum for discussion between scientists and the community.

The proposal eases restrictions on the special handling of organisms—or containment rules. In particular, experiments involving nonpathogenic, one-celled organisms would be carried out at the least restrictive category. It does not lower containment levels as much as the RAC proposal.

In addition, the voluntary plan would drop prohibitions on three types of experiments but would require prior approval by the committee, NIH, and the local biosafety group. Experiments that would now be permitted under Gottesman's proposal are those that deliberately release into the environment organisms containing recombinant DNA, such as organisms to be used as agricultural pesticides; those that deliberately form material containing genes that translate into certain lethal toxins; and those that deliberately transfer a drug resistance trait to microorganisms if it could jeopardize the use of a drug that currently controls disease.

The committee plans further refinements of the Gottesman proposal at the next meeting in April. For now, the committee has decided a fundamental issue that has been discussed for 2 years. It is not to everyone's liking in the research community but the more moderate proposal they chose is likely to gain public acceptance more easily than a clean sweep of regulations for now.

—MARJORIE SUN

## Final Draft of Classification Order

The third and final draft of the Reagan Administration's Executive Order on Security Classification came out on 4 February, little changed from the second draft. If Reagan signs the order, a 30-year trend toward reducing classified information will be reversed. For example, basic scientific research will be classifiable, as will research funded by grants, whether or not the funding agency itself has the power to classify (*Science*, 5 February, p. 636).

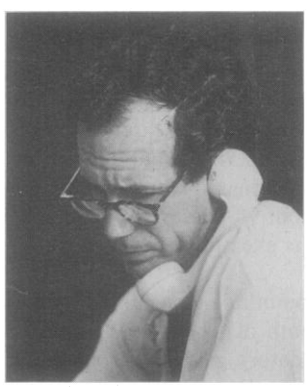
Congress has been given until 22 February to consider the final draft of the executive order—a time frame that a number of congressmen find too brief. Congress recessed on 10 February and will not return until 22 February. On 10 February, Glenn English, chairman of the House subcommittee on government information and individual rights of the Government Operations Committee, wrote to national security adviser William Clark asking that the deadline be extended. "No change should be made in the executive order without allowing for thorough review," he wrote. Seven other subcommittee chairman signed English's letter. A spokesman for English's subcommittee says that his and a number of other subcommittees would like to hold hearings on the executive order.—***Gina Kolata***

## DOD and University Presidents to Meet

A newly formed committee consisting of seven university presidents, Defense Science Board members, and Defense Department administrators will have its first meeting this month to discuss a broad range of issues relating to the mutual concerns. Donald Kennedy, president of Stanford University, and Richard DeLauer, under secretary for research and engineering at the Department of Defense (DOD), are cochairmen of the committee.

Among the issues to be discussed are technology transfer and export controls, research support for universities, graduate education in the physical sciences and engineering, the universities' needs for new laboratory instruments, and the nation's needs for more students trained to know foreign languages and as experts on other countries. The committee was set up at the Defense Department's request by the Association of American Universities (AAU), the American Council on Education, and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges.

***Richard D. DeLauer***



***Donald Kennedy***

According to John Crowley, executive assistant to the AAU president, the idea for such a committee came from two sources. One was the AAU, which was asked last year by DeLauer to prepare a report on major issues in research training that would be of concern to the Defense Department. The AAU presented its report in October, including the recommendation that it would be useful to establish a forum for the DOD and universities to talk to each other. In the meantime, the Defense Science Board came out with the same recommendation.

The establishment of the committee, says Crowley, "is a reflection of the seriousness of the situation and a recognition generally shared across DOD, universities, and Congressional committees that if the administration's fundamental objective is to rebuild our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national security, we must give attention to the universities that train people. We don't have the instruments, facilities, graduate students, or faculty in either the quality or the quantity that we need."—***Gina Kolata***

## Stanford, NAS Agree on Soviet Scholar

After hearing a "clarification" of the Department of State's restrictions on proposed visit to Stanford by Soviet robotics expert Nicolay V. Umnov, Stanford University says it can live with State's requirements. Umnov had applied to visit Stanford as part of a program administered by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). The NAS then notified Umnov's proposed host, Bernard Roth of Stanford, of restrictions on Umnov's visit (*Science*, 5 February, p. 638).

Stanford University vigorously protested the restrictions, which included requirements that Umnov have no access to any research, classified or unclassified, funded by the Defense Department, that he not visit industries, and that his program be limited to "research that has been published in the open literature." The NAS also notified Roth that he could negotiate with the State Department to allow Umnov access to unclassified material funded by Defense Department grants.

Stanford professors have been accepting State Department restrictions on Soviet visitors for many years and have accepted restrictions on visitors' access to unpublished research for more than a year, according to an NAS spokesman. (Restrictions on access to unclassified material have been commonplace since 1980.) Those who did not want to accept State Department restrictions have, in the past, negotiated with the department or have simply declined to be hosts for the visitors.

But because in this case Stanford generated so much publicity and outcry over the restrictions and the academy's role in passing them on, NAS president Frank Press asked the academy staff and the Department of State to negotiate a clarification of the restrictions. As a result, the academy was able to tell Stanford that Umnov could learn of any research that was to be published in the open literature. Because Stanford scientists do not conduct classified research, Umnov essentially would be allowed to do as he pleases on Stanford's campus.

But Umnov's visit is not yet a sure thing. Warns a State Department official, "Nothing has been resolved. We gave the academy some clarifications to show them how the restrictions could apply. But until we get a detailed response by Stanford, we cannot say there has been an agreement. We haven't seen anything from Stanford yet."—***Gina Kolata***

## Swinger's Guide to Science

Few scholars have acquired a greater mastery of the relationship between science and government than Dr. Grant Swinger, the distinguished director of the Center for the Absorption of Federal Funds. For some two decades, while federal priorities in science have lurched erratically from space to cancer to lasers and alternative fuels, Dr. Swinger has managed to stay in midstream of the flow of government contracts.

Swinger has been the recipient of many honors, including the Segmentation Prize, awarded for achieving the most publications from a single piece of research. Among the more notable accomplishments of his center has been the creation of the Pan-American chair, a prestigious and much coveted position that carries neither research or teaching duties, for it is a chair on a Pan-American airplane.

Dr. Swinger's many engagements and commitments have made him a familiar but also elusive figure. The only reporter tenacious enough to catch the peripatetic academic for interviews is Daniel S. Greenberg, the publisher of *Science & Government Report*. Greenberg was formerly the editor of the News & Comment section of *Science*, in which Dr. Swinger was first brought to public notice. His interviews with the versatile polymath have now been published in collected form*, and are indispensable reading for all connoisseurs of the fine art of grantsmanship.—***Nicholas Wade***

**The Grant Swinger Papers* by Daniel S. Greenberg, in collaboration with the Center for the Absorption of Federal Funds, obtainable from *Science & Government Report*, 3736 Kanawha Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20015, $3.95.

## NAS Elects Councilors, New Foreign Secretary

The National Academy of Sciences has elected Walter A. Rosenblith, Institute professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as its new foreign secretary. Rosenblith, who was born in Austria and educated in France, will be responsible for liaison between the Academy and its foreign counterparts. He has served on a variety of domestic and international science advisory groups.

Four persons have been elected to the Academy's governing council. They are Donald S. Fredrickson, former director of the National Institutes of Health, who is currently a scholar in residence at the Academy; Richard C. Atkinson, former director of the National Science Foundation and now chancellor of the University of California, San Diego; Maxine F. Singer, head of the biochemistry laboratory at the National Cancer Institute; and Jacob Bigeleisen, professor of chemistry at the State University of New York in Stony Brook.—***R. Jeffrey Smith***

## Primate Center Alive and Well

It was just more than a year ago when New York University's primate center was closed down for lack of funding (*Science*, 19 December, 1980, p. 1333). But LEMSIP or the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates is now alive and well, thanks to a reprieve by industrial support.

The primate center, located just north of New York City, reopened last March and its projected budget for this year is back up to its previous high of $1.5 million. About half of the money comes from core support by Alpha Therapeutic Corporation, which is a subsidiary of a Japanese drug firm, the Green Cross Company, and two other companies. The center also receives income from service contracts and grants by the National Institutes of Health.

The center is continuing its research in sickle cell anemia and hepatitis. Jan Moor-Jankowski remains the director.—***Marjorie Sun***