

tre Dame president Theodore Hesburgh led to contact with Cardinal C. König, Archbishop of Vienna, who was instrumental in bringing about the conference convened by the Pontifical Academy.

To enlist further support for the declaration, including that of other religious denominations, a followup meeting in Vienna in November is reportedly planned by Archbishop König. —**John Walsh**

## PBS to Broadcast Soviet Program on Nuclear War

Last June, an estimated 100 million Soviet citizens saw six physicians from the United States and the Soviet Union discuss in an hour-long program the myriad horrors of nuclear war. Now, the unprecedented show will play on U.S. television, courtesy of the Public Broadcasting Service. The rare dialogue in June was arranged by the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, based in Boston, and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin. PBS will rebroadcast the program on 13 October on a special segment of its *Inside Story* program. —**William J. Broad**

## NSF Gets a Billion-Dollar Budget

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has emerged from this year's confused and hectic budget process in relatively good shape. Not only did Congress add \$23 million to President Reagan's request for NSF, but it also approved the agency's budget a few hours before the fiscal year began on 1 October. Most other federal agencies will not have their budgets sorted out until December, when Congress returns for a lame-duck session.

Congress approved a total of \$1.092 billion for NSF, an increase of almost 10 percent over last year's budget. The major point of departure from Reagan's proposal is in the support of science education. Reagan wanted to eliminate NSF's education programs, leaving only \$15 million to fund fellowships, but Congress has

bumped the figure up to \$30 million. This should provide funds for programs such as precollege teacher training, public understanding of science, and the development of new undergraduate science courses. The House Appropriations Committee has recommended that programs designed to enhance opportunities for women and minorities in science be given a high priority in NSF's science education activities.

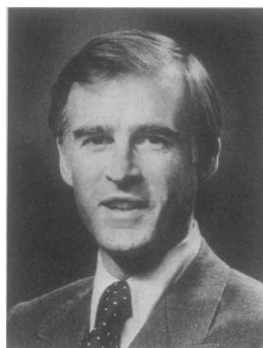
This is the second year running that Congress has blocked the Administration's attempts to gut NSF's science education programs. Last year, however, Congress took some money from research support to pay for education projects. This year, it has added to the Administration's request in both accounts. It has approved \$1.06 billion for research and related activities, an \$88 million increase over last year. —**Collin Norman**

## Governor Brown Vetoes Gene-Splicing Bill

A bill to regulate recombinant DNA research in California sailed through the state legislature during the summer and landed on Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.'s desk in late August. It remained there for a month, evidently causing him some discomfort. On the one hand, the measure was billed as helping to protect human health and the environment, two things Brown says he cares a lot about. But on the other hand, opponents of the bill were telling him that it could adversely affect high-technology industry in California, another thing he has embraced with a passion. On 30 September, he vetoed the bill.

According to an aide, Brown was persuaded that the legislation was un-

**Governor Brown**



duly restrictive and could have opened up biotechnology companies to a lot of spurious litigation. In short, the bill would have accomplished two things. State agencies, including the university, would have been required to follow the National Institutes of Health (NIH) recombinant DNA guidelines. And in any litigation involving alleged harm from recombinant DNA research, the burden of proof would be on the defendant to show that the NIH guidelines had been followed. It was this latter provision that worried biotechnology companies. Brown received some 20 letters and telephone calls from company officials warning that it would invite a lot of lawsuits and require excessive record-keeping. Several biotechnologists threatened to take their companies out of California if the bill became law.

Sponsors of the bill are somewhat bemused because all this opposition surfaced after the measure was passed by the legislature. Right now, they are uncertain whether to try to override the veto, or work out a compromise bill next year.

—**Collin Norman**

## The Breeder Lives

By a margin of one vote (49 to 48) the Clinch River breeder reactor escaped an attempt to kill it in the Senate on 29 September. The test came during a vote on a temporary financing bill that would keep all federal programs going at present funding levels through 22 December. Preoccupied with tax and budget bills, Congress failed to vote on regular appropriations before the recess. Most of the appropriations bills have been postponed for consideration in late November, when Congress will return for a lame-duck session. The breeder will come up again for review at that time, and there will probably be a second attempt to kill it.

There was an irony in the vote taken last week. All three senators who were absent voted against the breeder when it came up for review in November 1981. Had they been present this year, they could have eliminated the project. The absentees were Max Baucus (D-Mont.), Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), and Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii). —**Elliot Marshall**