

for \$19 million in fiscal year 1989 to set up the program's administration.

Many of the scientists interviewed emphasized the program's importance to basic science in Japan. Michio Okamoto, a member of the Council for Science and Technology, a panel that advises the Prime Minister's office on scientific matters, said in an interview, "There are three basic objectives to science and technology policy in this country: to strengthen basic research, to increase international cooperation, and to achieve harmony with human society and science and technology. The Human Frontiers Science Program will help achieve these three objectives. It represents a breakthrough to raise up basic research."

Japan has urged other nations to contribute money to the program. Okamoto and others say that a show of overseas financial support will help them convince the Finance Ministry to kick in more money. The United States has been cool to the idea while European countries support the program.

Researchers have no dearth of ideas for nurturing basic research here. Uenohara of NEC says, "We have to increase basic research in the corporate sector, but the government has a social responsibility to support basic research. If we could get 1% of the agricultural or forest subsidies, that would be significant. Monbusho has to act." Inose has long advocated that the government form an "Institute for Useless Re-

search" to shake Japan loose from goal-oriented research.

Kodama says he used to believe that Monbusho should reorganize first and then increase the budget for basic research. Now, he is not so sure because that scenario seems politically unlikely. "Someone's individual budget would have to be cut" if Monbusho revamps first. "Where do we start? That's a problem. We have talked and talked about reorganizing for 10 years now and nothing has happened."

But, he says, "the prospect for change is better now. There is pressure from the United States and the world is paying more attention to our science."

■ MARJORIE SUN

## The Drug Czar: No "Walter Wallflower"

"Several people have suggested that I should disassemble my bully pulpit, put on my green eyeshade, and just run numbers," said William J. Bennett, the former secretary of education who has been chosen by President Bush to be the drug czar, or chief of the new White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. At confirmation hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee on 1 and 2 March, Bennett promised to shift to a low register but not to be silent.

Bennett, 45 years old, is known as a blunt speaker in a town of circumlocutors and as a defender of traditional methods of education. He holds an undergraduate degree from Williams College, a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Texas and a law degree from Harvard. He has spoken out on many topics not strictly within his purview, for example, defending witnesses in the Iran-Contra hearings, suggesting that metal detectors be used to keep weapons out of schools, and advocating mandatory AIDS testing.

A witness from a secondary school group, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, described Bennett as a "combative and arrogant" administrator who "seemed to thrive on enhancing his own personal visibility." A Hispanic-American leader called the nominee "insensitive toward Hispanic educational concerns." They provided the only hostile public testimony.

A few senators warned Bennett that his new job will require more diplomacy. "You're not exactly Walter Wallflower," quipped Senator Alan Simpson (R-WY). It is hard enough to cope with interagency quarrels without emotional rhetoric, chairman Joseph Biden (D-DE) added. Bennett agreed, saying, "Politics is not a part of my beat in this job."

Biden and Bennett also seemed to agree on the role of the drug czar, created last fall in the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988. Biden spoke of the fragmentation of the federal policy. Agencies have fought not only over bureaucratic turf, but literally drawn guns at

one another in trying to make the same drug seizures. Biden mentioned a case in which one agency surreptitiously lifted another's budget by altering a computerized file.

The drug czar is supposed to bring such rivalries under control, to write a master plan for the government within 180 days, and to pass judgment on each agency's drug-fighting budget by certifying it as adequate or not. Thus, when Congress receives the next budget request from the White House, it will also get a critique from the drug czar. Bennett wanted to know whether he must certify each piece of an agency's budget (rather than each agency's total plan). Biden said he must. "That doesn't make life easier," Bennett replied, "but it makes it more interesting."

Bennett spoke of the need to express values, particularly in schools. He said that educational antidrug programs should involve not just academic courses, but should touch students directly, suggesting that principals should be willing to expel drug users. He claimed that schools with a tough expulsion policy actually have a lower expulsion rate. Bennett said, "We must let them know we are serious, that we mean what we say." It was to set an example himself, no doubt, that he gave up a 2-pack-a-day smoking habit a few weeks before the hearing.

The senators pressed Bennett to say how he would weight federal expenditures in the war on drugs, now balanced heavily (70%) in favor of enforcement. He put off answering until the comprehensive plan is due, about 6 months from now. He did say, however, that he saw regional differences in the patterns of abuse and that he may recommend trying a variety of approaches to enforcement, each to be evaluated for effectiveness. He also seemed reluctant to expand federal funding for treatment without a better understanding of "what works." Bennett said: "Most Americans think we should spend money on good treatment programs, if we can find them. The question is, do we have good treatment programs?"

■ ELIOT MARSHALL



William J. Bennett

Richard Bloom