



A Saturn V carries the Apollo 15 mission to the moon in 1971.

Heavy-Lift Launchers: Return of an Old Warhorse?

■ NASA, which built a powerful heavy-lift launcher in the 1960s called the Saturn V—which last carried astronauts to the moon in 1972—is being told that what the space program really needs in the next century is...a heavy-lift launcher. This advice came recently from the “Augustine commission,” an independent advisory panel (*Science*, 21 December 1990, p. 1654). But NASA may be asked to do more than just restore its old weight-lifting ability; some members of Congress seem interested in resurrecting the Saturn V itself.

This possibility came up in a hearing on 31 January, when Representative Ray Thornton (D-AR) asked Defense Science Board member Joseph Shea if NASA could make use of the old Saturn V technology. (NASA itself would clearly prefer to move to a shuttle-derived lifter.) Shea replied that so far as he knew, the plans and drawings for the Saturn V don’t even exist anymore. The announcement seemed to surprise Thornton and committee chairman George Brown (D-CA), who said he would consider it “repensible,” if true.

The following week, however, NASA administrator Richard Truly appeared before the committee and denied that the plans had been lost. “There is a myth that we no longer have the drawings,” he said. Shortly thereafter,

NASA history officer Lee Saegesser told *Science* that all the Saturn V drawings and specifications—“hundreds of cubic feet” of them—are stored at a federal facility in East Point, Georgia.

Staff aides to the House oversight subcommittee for science and space say there may be further investigations into the Saturn V plans. Other experts, however, have warned that even if the old documents are complete, original tooling and many of the subcontractors that worked on the rocket no longer exist, making a resurrected Saturn V an expensive proposition.

■ *Science* has learned that National Cancer Institute director Samuel Broder recently gave a \$10,000 “merit award” to Adi Gazdar, the NCI researcher who established the HUT78 cell line in which the HIV virus was first grown in large quantities. Gazdar says he is vaguely aware that the award recognizes his work in growing cell lines, but doesn’t know the official reasons behind it. “There was no paperwork,” he says. “[Broder] basically invited me into his office one day and gave me a check.”

Gazdar has always been the odd man out in the story of NCI’s success in developing a test for the AIDS virus (*Science*,

Brown Beefs Up Science Committee

■ If Representative George Brown (D-CA) gets his way, look for the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee to reassert its eroded authority in the coming year. Committee chairman Brown intends to transform the formerly sleepy body into a more powerful force in setting broad science policy in areas such as energy research and the conditions under which academic research is performed.

Brown began bucking tradition last week when he declined to chair any of the seven subcommittees under his domain. Instead, he plans to hire 4 to 5 additional professional staff members for the committee itself, a move that will give him “more flexibility in defining the issues he is most involved with,” according to a staff aide. This upgrade is also designed to give the committee more weight in its dealings with the House appropriations and budget committees, as well as their counterparts in the Senate.

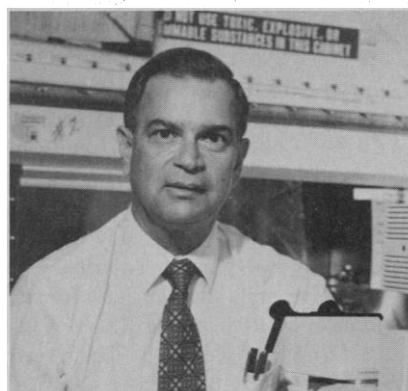
Says the aide: “We want to be viewed as a forum for creative communication on science policy, not just a rubber stamp for departmental requests or a

group that relies on [the Office of Technology Assessment] and [the Congressional Research Service] for its view of the world.”

NSF Off the Hook

■ An upcoming report from the General Accounting Office on federal peer review won’t slap the wrist of the National Science Foundation as expected, but will point out sloppy practices at several other agencies, including the Department of Energy and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Last year, Senator John Glenn (D-OH) asked GAO to investigate NSF and other agencies after hearing that NSF had failed to let a grant applicant rebut some damaging gossip that came up during a review (*Science*, 15 June 1990, p. 1307). The GAO visited half a dozen bureaus and pored over their records for several months, and has now concluded that there’s no need for a sweeping reform—least of all at NSF. These findings, along with obligatory agency rebuttals, will be ready for release by the end of February, says a GAO official.

National Cancer Institute Awards Gazdar \$10,000



Just deserts? NCI’s Adi Gazdar.

22 June 1990, p. 1499). Unlike his colleagues Robert Gallo and Mikulas Popovic, Gazdar does not share in the royalties from the AIDS test patent—which reportedly amount to

\$100,000 a year.

Is the merit award an attempt to close debate on Gazdar’s right to a share of these royalties? NCI-Navy Clinical Oncology chief John Minna, who recommended last year that NCI reward Gazdar for his work in developing lung cancer and tumor cell lines—including HUT78—says he doesn’t think the two issues are related.

But the thought has clearly crossed Gazdar’s mind: “I guess in some ways it’s compensation for that.... If you say, ‘Has it been settled?’ then I guess it’s been settled.”

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