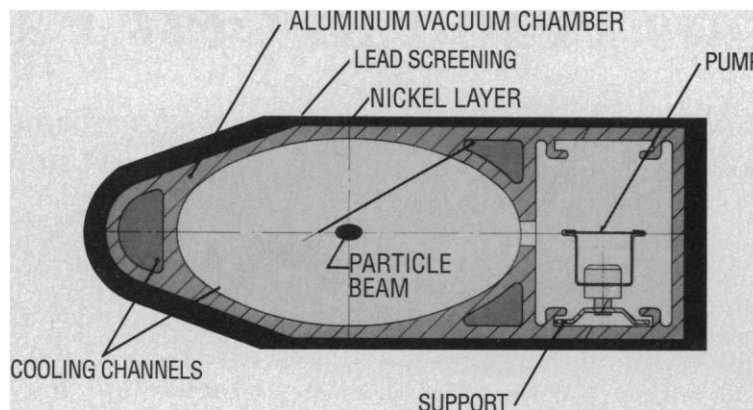


LEP's Lunch Gap...

■ Longer lunches, full of gossip and exchange of ideas, might have saved some embarrassment for engineers in the vacuum and magnet groups at the large electron-positron collider (LEP) in Geneva. According to the newspaper *Journal de Genève*, engineers from the vacuum group put a coat of nickel on the 27km-long collider ring without fully understanding how this magnetic material might affect the position of the circulating electron and positron beams—the responsibility of the magnet engineers.

The result was a baffling anomaly. More used to handling protons, which would not be disturbed by a tiny magnetic field, magnet engineers spent months making minute measurements and advancing hypotheses before discovering that the nickel layer was to blame for the puzzling data. The nickel cannot be thrown out now without dismantling the accelerator (it was used to bind on



LEP's nickel-coated ring: the magnet engineers forgot.

the lead shielding that soaks up synchrotron radiation), but the engineers have come up with a fix—3000 small magnets that, when attached to the ring, will compensate for the disturbance. Fortunately, the error has done little harm; even with the small anomaly, LEP last year successfully produced a fountain of Z^0 bosons and new research results.

...SSC's Culture Clash

■ A culture clash between physicists and managers at the Superconducting Super Collider Laboratory has led to the resignation of a top SSC physicist, Helen Edwards, a renowned expert on accelerator design. Edwards, the technical director of the \$8.25-billion project, will be leaving in June, apparently

because of disagreements with laboratory managers over issues such as setting final technical specifications on accelerator systems. One current program manager says, "Helen was uncomfortable with the size of the project and the speed of the program."

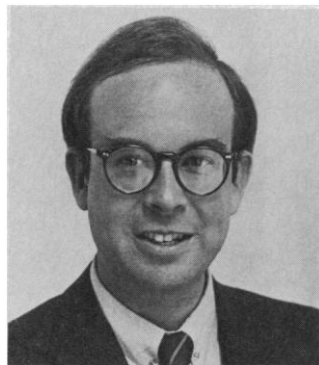
However, a former official in the SSC project office says Edwards' departure is part of a fundamental struggle going on at the SSC Lab involving "who is going to control the

project—the physicists or the nuclear power plant types." He says that General Manager Edward Siskin, who last managed nuclear power projects for Stone and Webster, and other laboratory managers hired by Energy Secretary James Watkins to keep a tight rein on the project don't understand that designing accelerators is a difficult, fluid process. "Not a single one of those guys can go to the chalk board and write a set of differential equations that describe how a particle behaves in an accelerator," he claims.

Although Edwards' management skills are considered weak by some laboratory officials, her impending departure worries a number of particle physicists. Losing her represents a "management failure," says the director of one national laboratory who asked not to be identified.

Another House Committee to Investigate University Research Costs

■ The feeding habits of big universities are suddenly a topic for investigation on Capitol Hill, following the bruising in-



Rep. Frederick Boucher (D-VA)

quiry by Representative John Dingell's (D-MI) subcommittee into Stanford University's abuses of "indirect costs." Now Representative Frederick C. Boucher (D-VA), the new chairman of the House Science, Space and Technology Re-

search subcommittee says he, too, wants to know what happens to the overheads the government provides to defray the cost of managing federally sponsored academic research. Boucher's subcommittee will be holding a series of hearings on indirect costs later this spring. But Boucher's inquiry is likely to come as something of a relief

to universities after the pounding they have received under Dingell's prosecutorial zeal. Although Boucher is convinced that Dingell's committee has uncovered real problems in the billing process, his committee will focus on finding generic solutions to the problems rather than uncovering fresh examples of abuse.

■ Will NIH be able to sustain its new, hard-hitting approach to investigating allegations of scientific misconduct? The question arises as leadership of the office undergoes a change in the next few weeks. Suzanne Hadley, deputy director of NIH's Office of Scientific Integrity and a prime mover in several recent OSI investigations (see page 1552), says she will move to NIH's office of science policy and legislation as a special assistant to director Jay Moskowitz. Hadley



Suzanne Hadley

is looking forward to the new post, despite having found her work at OSI "deeply engaging."

In her new job, Hadley will represent NIH before Congress and analyze science policy issues for the new NIH director, Bernadine Healy. Fans of Hadley's style don't have to worry about her dropping the reins in mid-investigation: she intends to complete several inquiries she's been deeply involved with, including the "Baltimore case," even from her new position.