

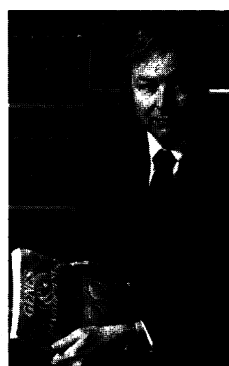
port for Baltimore. The following day, in one-to-one meetings with about a dozen senior faculty members, Furlaud reportedly indicated that the board would not alter its support of Baltimore. According to one professor who met with Furlaud, the chairman said the board was "unanimously" behind Baltimore.

Endgame

It's not clear how much longer this stand-off might have continued, but at one of the board-faculty meetings just before Thanksgiving came an event that may have tipped the scales: James E. Darnell Jr., vice president of academic affairs and a longtime member of the university faculty, told Furlaud he was thinking about resigning. "He said that Dr. Baltimore was losing some support among the faculty," Furlaud told *Science*, "and that's why he was thinking about resigning." Furlaud claims he did not know Darnell had in fact resigned until he saw Darnell's letter of resignation on the evening of 2 December; he said he believes

Baltimore was unaware of Darnell's action when he himself decided to resign.

But Darnell's decision was common knowledge on the campus the day before Thanksgiving, and it clearly signaled the degree to which the controversy was splitting the campus. Darnell was someone special not only to the university but also to Baltimore. He had co-authored a molecular biology text with Baltimore and was known to be one of Baltimore's earliest and strongest advocates. Indeed, some Rockefeller insiders hypothesize that Darnell stepped down to put pressure on Baltimore and force him to resign before the university suffered further irreparable divisions over the issue. That theory could not be confirmed, since Darnell did not return repeated phone calls to discuss his resignation, which was accepted by the board of trustees along with Baltimore's on 3 December.



James Darnell

What lesson can be drawn from the story of David Baltimore's resignation? Asked what was the crucial element in the unfolding story, a former supporter on the Rockefeller faculty put it this way: "David refused to be contrite. He wouldn't admit that he made a mistake." A longtime friend and colleague of Baltimore's acknowledged the same flaw, but located the tragedy elsewhere.

"I think it's tragic. I think it's a study in hypocrisy. We don't live in a Socratic society where people guilty of hubris get their eyes poked out. I don't understand what David did in his life that made everyone so mad at him." The former Baltimore supporter added: "It's so unnecessary. That's what so tragic. Of course, that's the essence of tragedy." ■ **STEPHEN S. HALL**

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SSC: The Japan That Can Say No

Tokyo—Talk of warmer U.S.-Japanese relations may have been in the air last week, the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, but U.S. Secretary of Energy Admiral James Watkins got a familiar Japanese cold shoulder. On a 4-day visit to Tokyo, Watkins was given little hope by government officials that Japan would provide more than small sums for the Superconducting Super Collider (SSC). Watkins was in Tokyo to pave the way for President George Bush's visit in early January for talks with the new Japanese prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa. The SSC will be one of the items on the agenda.

According to official government sources, Watkins was told by Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata that Japan has no interest in becoming a major partner in the SSC project, although it may make "some contribution." In a separate meeting, Education Minister Kunio Hatoyama told Watkins that it would be impossible for the Ministry of Education, which runs the National Laboratory of High Energy Physics (KEK) and other large accelerator programs in Japan, to use its own funds for the SSC project.

U.S. officials have variously suggested that Japan should pay \$1 billion to \$2 billion of the estimated \$8.5-billion cost of the SSC, or provide one of the large detectors. These requests come at a bad time for Japan. The government has already had to cut budgets to pay Japan's \$13-billion contribution to the Gulf War, and several of Watkins' arguments for Japanese contributions—including the suggestion that Japan owes it to the world to spend more on basic research, and thus the SSC—are wearing thin in Tokyo.

According to Akihiro Fujita, director of policy planning for international programs at the Science and Technology Agency, there is growing resentment at the heavy pressure being put on the Japanese government. A speech by Watkins at the National Press Club in Tokyo did little to help matters. He claimed that

the 350 Japanese researchers working at the U.S. National Institutes of Health are "doing medical research and receiving training at an annual cost to us of \$8.5 million," with the clear implication that it was time for Japan to repay. That argument didn't go over too well: "The Japanese are employed at NIH as talented researchers actively sought out by the administration because of their high abilities and willingness to work very hard," says Hiroto Okayama, a molecular biologist at Osaka University and former NIH researcher.

Many Japanese scientists are opposed to the SSC because they feel sure it will draw funding away from their own projects. According to Toshimitsu Yamazaki, director of the Institute for Nuclear Studies, "In our political scheme, the Ministry of Finance keeps very definite control over the budget allocation to individual ministries.... Even if the prime minister should create a special budget [for the SSC], people are very much afraid that that would leave a negative influence on the budget of the Ministry of Education, the Science and Technology Agency, and others."

The way the United States approached Japan to help fund the SSC has also hit a nerve in Tokyo. According to a prominent member of the Science Council of Japan, the highest science policy body, when a delegation of U.S. high-energy physicists and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) officials came to Japan 3 years ago, "They said that the SSC is their national project, and we accepted the idea." "Then," he says, "just 1 year later a DOE delegation came here to talk about international collaboration." Now Bush himself is coming to talk about collaboration. Given the response to Watkins' visit, however, Bush will have to come up with more eloquent—or more politically powerful—arguments to persuade Miyazawa that he should disregard the wishes of his own government ministers. ■ **FREDERICK SHAW MYERS**

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