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#### REFERENCES

1. *Science Indicators Data Base* (Institute for Scientific Information, Philadelphia, PA, 1981 to June 1992).

### The Federal Budget and Special Interests

Recent News & Comment columns (see 18 Sept., p. 1619) have reported that efforts to increase federal funds for research and development (R&D) were headed for the "brick wall" separating and capping domestic and defense spending in the federal budget. Further, in the scramble for domestic funds, science would suffer at the hands of such programs as Medicare and Medicaid, which Congress is unlikely to cut.

These reports appear to have been based on comments of congressional staff persons, many of whom see their jobs in terms of the special interests with which their committees happen to be involved. Unhappily, congress-

sional committees can be expected to take such narrow views of the federal budget, but the R&D community, along with the higher education lobby, ought not take that approach. Such an approach (i) makes the R&D and higher education communities just two of many special interest pleaders; (ii) puts science at odds with some powerful and legitimate concerns, at a time when R&D and higher education are in dire need of some effective allies to help make their case for public support; and (iii) adds to the fragmentation of the body politic and to the refusal to deal with the base on which the budget wall rests—annual deficits.

The outcome of the 1992 election, by itself, will neither ease the paralysis caused by countless claims competing for shares of shrinking budgets nor encourage effective action to reduce deficits and free up resources for the future. The directions of future federal policies could be determined by groups of special interests that move beyond fragmentation and put together new alliances in support of particular policy options. Such alliances can be organized around short-range, self-serving aims as well as around long-range goals looking to the future well-being of society.

Given that the R&D and higher education communities, by definition, ought to be con-

cerned about the quality of the future, and that both groups need allies to help advance their agendas, the communities should give high priority to working with other special interests to create a progressive alliance. They could start by viewing aging organizations as potential allies rather than powerful competitors for public funds.

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### UV Light Exposure and HIV Replication

The Research News article by Brigid M. Wallace and Jill S. Lasker (28 Aug., p. 1211) raises the possibility that exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light can activate the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) by mechanisms that involve chromatin unwinding, with subsequent activation of HIV genes integrated in the eukaryotic cell genome. A second mechanism by which exposure to UV light could be detrimental in HIV-infected individuals is suggested by three recent observations that are seemingly independent. First, it has been

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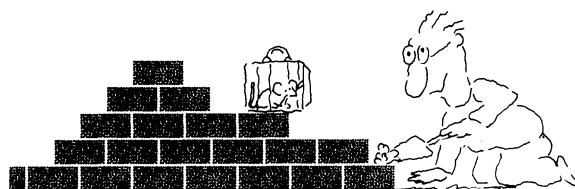
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