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SCIENCE EDUCATION

President's Committee on Manpower

On April 15, by executive order, President Johnson created a panel to evaluate the nation's current and future manpower requirements, including the impact of federal programs, and to make recommendations regarding them. The committee is a direct result of the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962 which requires the Government to appraise the over-all manpower situation and for the President to report to Congress each year on this subject. One of the first topics the committee is expected to take up is the problem of providing enough scientific manpower to meet the needs of the federal government while still leaving an adequate supply of teachers in the colleges and universities.

Heading the eleven-man group is Labor Secretary W. Willard Wirtz, who will be assisted by Atomic Energy Commission chairman Glenn T. Seaborg, National Science Foundation director Leland J. Haworth, National Aeronautics and Space Administration head James E. Webb, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall, Commerce Secretary Luther H. Hodges, Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Anthony J. Celebrezze, chairman of the Civil Service Commission John W. Macy, Jr., and Selective Service System director Lewis B. Hershey.

NSF Programs

The National Science Foundation's budget request of \$488 million for the coming year includes funds for a new program and the broad expansion of an existing program. These are, respectively, the Science Development Program, designed to foster new centers of excellence in research and education, and the Graduate Traineeship Program, intended to increase graduate enrollments.

The Science Development Program was first spelled out over three years

ago in a report by the President's Science Advisory Committee on the relationship between the Federal Government and the universities. Under the program, comprehensive grants of up to \$5 million each, will be made to those institutions that are "judged to have the greatest possibility of moving upward to a higher level of scientific quality and to have sound plans for maintaining this quality". The applying institutions will be requested to submit a detailed 5-year plan of their scientific activities, including descriptions of how the NSF funds will be used, how the plan fits into the over-all development plans for the institution, budgetary expenditures, faculty and students, etc. NSF points out that since the goal of the new program is to increase the number of strong academic centers in science, schools that are already recognized as outstanding should continue to rely on existing grant programs. On the other hand, institutions participating in the program must show sufficient scientific strength to serve as a base for the proposed development plan and have adequate financial resources to give a reasonable assurance that the school's goals can be maintained as well as achieved. Providing Congress grants the \$25 million requested for the program, NSF anticipates between 10 and 15 development grants by the end of fiscal 1965.

The Graduate Traineeship Program provides grants to institutions of higher education to enable them to select promising students for full-time graduate study. At the present time, the grants are available only in the engineering fields, but beginning in fiscal 1965 (July 1, 1964), the Foundation plans to extend the program to cover mathematics and the physical sciences, including biophysics, physical oceanography, and the atmospheric sciences. To this end, funds allocated by NSF for the program have been increased from \$6 million in the current year to \$20 million in fiscal 1965. Under the program, basic 12-