

stands simultaneously with an attack on it written by David R. Saunders, a psychologist dismissed from the Condon staff, and R. Roger Harkins, a Colorado newsman. Entitled *UFOs? Yes! Where the Condon Committee Went Wrong*, it was published as a paperback by New American Library.

At the same time, perhaps in anticipation of still further studies, the Library of Congress released a UFO bibliography listing more than 1600 references.

The Condon study was not the first undertaken by scientists. In 1953 the Central Intelligence Agency convened a panel headed by the late H. P. Robertson of the California Institute of Technology. Its members included Samuel A. Goudsmit, Luis W. Alvarez, Lloyd V. Berkner and Thornton Page. The panel found no threat to US security nor any evidence of foreign origin. Its report was not declassified until 1966, however.

Condon knew before he started that he was in for a fight, but still was surprised by the vehemence of the opposition. "Had I known of the extent of the emotional commitment of the UFO believers and the extremes of conduct to which their faith can lead them," he wrote in the report, "I certainly would have never undertaken the study."

US Scientists Earned Median Salary of \$13 200 in 1968

Median salaries for US scientists rose \$1200 (about 10%) from 1966 to 1968, according to the National Science Foundation. The median salary in 1968 was \$13 200.

Self-employed scientists reported the highest median, \$18 000. Next came those employed by industry and

To give the Condon report added stature, the Air Force asked the National Academy of Sciences to review it before its release. Gerald M. Clemence of Yale, former scientific director of the Naval Observatory, was chairman. Panel members included H. Richard Crane and David M. Dennison of the University of Michigan, H. Kefauver Hartline of Rockefeller University and William W. Rubey of UCLA. The panel found that the Condon team had made a "very creditable effort to apply objectively the relevant techniques of science to the solution of the UFO problem." It concurred with Condon's recommendation that no high priority for further UFO investigation is warranted.

For flying-saucer enthusiasts, the final sentence of the panel's report was harsh news: "On the basis of present knowledge the least likely explanation of UFOs is the hypothesis of extraterrestrial visitations by intelligent beings."

The Air Force ordered the Condon study in the hopes of allaying public fears and suspicions about UFOs. In particular the Air Force hoped to refute the charge that it was concealing information. Bantam Books ordered an initial press run of 200 000 copies. Whether wide circulation will help settle the argument or only intensify it remains to be seen.

nonprofit institutions, who earned \$14 700. Scientists in the federal government reported the same median salary, \$13 500, as that for all scientists.

In industry, physicists earned a median salary of \$16 200, surpassed only by economists, mathematicians and psychologists. Physicists earned the

in London. The subscription rate for North America is \$8.40.

A two-hour lecture film, "The Transuranium Elements," featuring Glenn T. Seaborg is available for free loan or purchase from the Atomic Energy Commission.

Two new bimonthly physics journals are offered by Plenum Publishing Corp. The *Journal of Low Temperature Physics* is edited by John Daunt of Stevens Institute of Technology; the *Journal of Statistical Physics* is edited by Howard Reiss of UCLA.

IN BRIEF

The National Bureau of Standards has combined all its units that gather, analyze and publish scientific information under an associate director for information programs. Edward L. Brady, a physical chemist who had been chief of the Office of Standard Reference Data, was named to the new post.

The *Physics Bulletin* was offered to the public for the first time with the January issue. The monthly magazine is published by The Institute of Physics and The Physical Society



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highest median salary, \$20 800, of all those engaged in management of research and development.

Two thirds of all physicists reporting were engaged in research and development or in R-and-D management.

The figures were derived from a survey of 298 000 scientists for the NSF biennial National Register. An eight-page NSF report, *Salaries and Selected Characteristics of US Scientists*, is available from the Government Printing Office.

Foundation Gives \$7 Million To Lamont Observatory

Columbia University's geophysics center is now the Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory as the result of a \$7 million gift. The Henry L. and Grace Doherty Charitable Foundation announced the grant at the beginning of the year.

Andrew W. Cordier, acting university president, called it one of the largest single gifts in Columbia's 215-year history. Discussions with the foundation had been carried on since last spring by Maurice Ewing, observatory director. Cordier said other sources of income are being added to the Doherty gift to ensure that the observatory's endowment will exceed \$10 million.

Presidential Panel Proposes New Ocean Resources Agency

The Nixon administration is studying the recommendation of a special presidential panel that a strong new civil agency be created to guide US marine research and development. The proposed National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency would be composed of existing agencies, including the Environmental Science Services Administration, the Coast Guard and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

Julius A. Stratton of the Ford Foundation, who directed the two-year study by the panel, said the report did not propose any crash programs and added that he hoped the new agency would not be called, as has been suggested, a "wet NASA."

The report envisions the new agency spending about \$2000 million a year by the end of the next decade. Some of the money would go to already leading oceanographic institutions, which would be designated "University National Laboratories." □

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