

state & society

Congress gives NSF \$622 million; AEC funds still undecided

President Nixon has signed a compromise appropriation bill for the National Science Foundation giving it \$622 million for fiscal year 1972. The House and Senate have approved appropriations bills for the Atomic Energy Commission that differ on several items; the differences await resolution in a conference committee.

For NSF, the Administration had requested \$622 million. The House authorized \$622 million. The Senate voted for a two-year authorization with \$706.5 million for fiscal year 1972 and \$907 million for fiscal year 1973. The final authorization, for fiscal year 1972 only, was \$655.5 million. In the bill a line-item approach was used, rather than the lump-sum authorization previously customary. Specifically earmarked for the Science Education Program was \$99.3 million, of which not less than \$2 million is to go for the Student Science Training program and \$4 million for the Undergraduate Research Participation Program. Both

student programs had been eliminated in the Administration budget request. The Research Applied to National Needs program was limited to not more than \$59 million, instead of the requested \$81 million. Although the Administration had requested \$257.8 million for scientific research project support, the bill authorized \$271 million. The appropriations bill used the lump-sum approach allocating a total of \$622 million.

For AEC's Division of Research, the House gave the requested amount of \$263.6 million, but the Senate gave \$264.8 million. The additional sum was to increase the amount for controlled thermonuclear research from \$29.8 million to \$31.0 million. It is not yet known how this disparity will be settled.

In the authorization report of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, the committee urged AEC to develop a priority list of which accelerators should be kept operating should future funding be inadequate to support each of the six

existing high-energy physics laboratories effectively. It pointed out that when the National Accelerator Laboratory becomes fully operational, it will cost \$60-70 million, which is more than half of the money that was requested in 1972 for the whole field of high-energy physics.

The Committee expressed concern that when a new or improved machine starts operating, it has adverse effects on funding other parts of a program. It cited the example of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, where the operation of the new Super-HILAC will cause ripples that "assume tsunami-like proportions at certain off-site laboratories where entire programs are lost . . . a nagging question remains as to the wisdom of the choices being made." The Joint Committee and other congressional committees plan to pay increasing attention to the problem of determining priorities in AEC-funded programs and other parts of the Federal establishment. —GBL

IEE to market AIP's "Current Physics Information" in Europe

A new marketing agreement between the American Institute of Physics and the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE-London) has just been signed. Beginning in 1972 IEE will be the exclusive distributor of AIP-produced secondary information products in Europe and all Commonwealth countries except Canada.

The secondary products to be identified and marketed by the name "Current Physics Information" (CPI) consist of microfilm, computer tapes and printed journals containing titles or advanced abstracts. The new CPI system will provide rapid access to information from a selected set of the world's most significant physics journals. Full details of CPI will be given in a forthcoming *physics today* article by Arthur Herschman, director of AIP's Physics Information Division.

The new AIP-IEE agreement is the second to be signed by the two organizations. The first, completed in the early 1960's, permitted AIP to market

IEE-produced *Physics Abstracts* in the Americas. *Physics Abstracts* is a comprehensive abstract journal for which IEE regularly scans over 800 journals published throughout the world. The first agreement made this comprehensive secondary service available economically and speedily in the Americas.

The second agreement is reciprocal to the first in that it provides new CPI services to physicists in Europe and the Commonwealth. It is also an indicator of increasing cooperation and coordination in the international transfer of physics information. H. William Koch, director of AIP, recently announced that steps are being taken to improve the transfer further through negotiations currently under way between AIP and IEE. The agreement that is now being discussed could lead to the establishment of a single worldwide physics information system. The basis for this system would be the cooperative efforts of AIP through its large

primary-journal program comprising 35% of the world's journal literature in physics and of IEE through its range of comprehensive secondary services. Such cooperation would provide the capability of supplying currently available full texts of research articles from most of the significant literature and allowing retrospective searching of abstracts from a comprehensive coverage of the literature.

Koch said that a statement of intent was expected to be approved by the boards of both AIP and IEE by the end of September. If approval is obtained then formal contracts will be negotiated.

The increased cooperation between AIP and IEE is just another example of what is happening internationally in science information. Economic pressures and the realization that increased efficiency, improved speed and greater coverage can be provided by sharing services, are leading many publishers to cooperate and expand their operations.

Two outstanding examples of such