

David briefs physics-community leaders

Presidential Science Adviser Edward E. David Jr met with representatives of AIP and its member societies in February to discuss the forthcoming Presidential message on science and technology. About 40 leaders of the physics community were present including members of AIP, the AIP Governing Board, society presidents and secretaries, the Committee on Physics and Society and the Corporate Associates Advisory Committee. The meeting was one in a series of meetings David has had with leaders from all scientific disciplines.

David summarized the R&D outlook in the new budget, noting particularly an increased emphasis on domestic and industrial programs, and he affirmed that the special message on science and technology is the start of a national science policy.

Increases in research in domestic science were welcomed by the physicists, as were the proposed industrial programs, but they pointed out the necessity of making sure that positions are found in these new programs for physicists, and as early as possible. Also discussed at the meeting were the difficulties in manpower studies introduced by the elimination of the National Register and the importance of expanding the program of public education about science.

A letter covering many of these points has been sent to David from the society presidents: Philip M. Morse, American Physical Society; Kenneth Ford, American Association of Physics Teachers; Aden B. Meinel, Optical Society of America; John C. Johnson, Acoustical Society of America; F. R. Eirich, Society of Rheology; Martin Schwartzschild, American Astronomical Society, and Jerome Karle, American Crystallographic Association. The letter urges David to take steps to remedy the unemployment problem among physicists and to apply money in the Domestic Council programs to university-based research. The letter noted that "federal funds expended in physics R&D, after correction for inflation, have been decreasing steadily since 1967. To continue this trend without major correction may be damaging in view of the emphasis the message places on the need for innovation and high technology." The letter applauded funding for the Very Large Array radio telescope and the Batavia accelerator. —SMH

The five NSF-sponsored National Research Centers are being given an estimated \$42.3 million, an increase of \$2.1 million from the FY 1972 level, but because the funds for the Very Large Array are included under the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, the Centers are experiencing a net loss of funds. The National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center at Arecibo will be funded at \$3.3 million, down \$0.7 million, Cerro Tololo at \$2.7 million, up \$0.2 million, Kitt Peak National Observatory at \$8.2 million, up \$0.5 million, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (less funds for the VLA) at \$7.2 million, up \$0.2 million, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research at \$17.9 million, down \$1.1 million.

Funds for special NSF science education programs are also down in the budget request. The Institutional Improve-

ment for Science Program experiences a drop of \$4.0 to \$8.0 million in Institutional Grants for Science (formula grants), and a drop of \$9 million to zero is associated with the phasing-out of the Science Development Program. The latter program had supported institutions with NSF-sponsored projects that did not receive supplementary funding. Graduate-student support is provided in 500 new graduate fellowships. There is a decrease in graduate-student support of \$6 million to \$14 million reflecting the phase-out of the traineeship program, and, as last year, there is no funding for postdoctoral positions or for teaching-assistant summer traineeships. There is an increase of \$7.8 million to \$70 million for the Science Education, Development and Demonstration Program.

In the AEC, total physical-research funds requested are \$282 million, a rise of \$17.0 over FY 1972. This rise in-

cludes an increase of \$6.55 million for the National Accelerator Laboratory's first operating expenses and an increase of about \$2 million for "partial exploitation" of the modified AGS at Brookhaven. The rise in high-energy physics spending from \$116.4 million to \$126.4 million is the first such rise since the mid-1960's.

There is also an increased request of \$2.9 million in medium-energy physics. Two new accelerators, the Los Alamos Meson Physics Facility and the MIT 400-MeV electron linear accelerator, will be helped into operation by \$3.5 million. According to AEC, "other activities in medium-energy physics will be reduced to offset the difference."

AEC research oriented to solving civilian problems will cover such areas as tunneling, large energy-storage systems and cryogenic power transmission.

Work in controlled fusion is beginning to receive funding commensurate with its press coverage—funding for operating expenses is up \$7 million from the currently authorized amount of \$31 million.

DOD and NASA. An informed source told PHYSICS TODAY that physics research is down in NASA and the Department of Defense. DOD research is budgeted at \$123 million. The important areas of interest are oceanography, biomedical research, atmospheric sciences, electronics and materials.

NASA will drop the Grand Tour outer-planets exploration, but the Administration hopes to add the space shuttle. The total budget will drop \$25 million to \$3302 million but, according to OST, the budget for space-science research will be increased 25% to \$554 million. Programs provided for include the new Orbiting Solar Observatory, OSO-I, the Viking automated Mars lander scheduled for 1975, the last Apollo mission and Skylab. —SMH

Table 3. AEC Physics Operating Budget

Program	FY 1972 (millions of dollars)	FY 1973
High energy	116.40	126.40
Medium energy	13.10	16.00
Low energy	25.30	25.30
Mathematics and computers	4.80	4.65
Chemistry	49.00	46.95
Metallurgy and materials (solid state physics)	25.20	24.50
Controlled fusion	31.00	38.00
Total	264.80	281.80

in brief

Engineering for Resolution of the Energy-Environment Dilemma: A Summary is available from the Committee on Power Plant Siting, National Academy of Engineering, 2101 Constitution Ave, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20418.

The American Association of Junior Colleges has established a Career Staffing Center that will serve as a clearinghouse of information both for junior and community colleges with job openings and for individuals seeking employment. Member colleges of AAJC and persons seeking positions may obtain information from the AAJC Career Staffing Center, P. O. Box 298, Alexandria, Va. 22314. □