Energy departments

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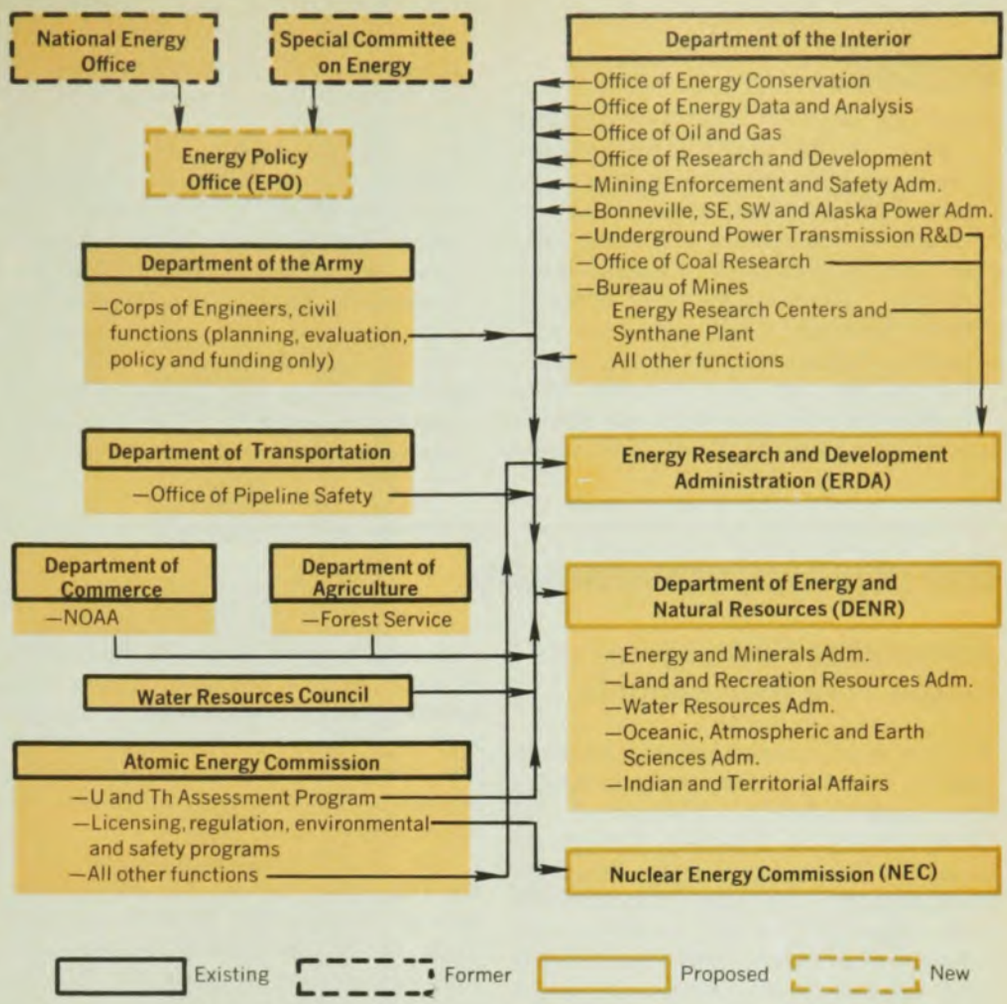
fice of Science and Technology, which had at most three people involved in energy R&D policy. Donovan expects to have a ten-member staff to span the many facets (environmental, economic and technological) of the energy problem and he will report directly to NSF director H. Guyford Stever in support of his role as the President's Science Adviser.

In addition, through grants and contracts, the new NSF office can support energy R&D policy investigations outside the Foundation to provide backup information in such areas as R&D in the private sector, manpower needs, international R&D efforts and the design of a national systems approach to analyze the energy situation.

The NSF energy R&D policy office will, then, provide information to the executive office of the President and to other government agencies that will aid in the coordination of their efforts on a national scale. The NSF office will interact closely with the new White House EPO, which will not have the staff or resources to carry on intensive R&D policy investigations; EPO must cover a much broader spectrum of issues than just R&D analysis. —RAS



Drew to head Science and Technology Policy Office

The Science and Technology Policy Office has been formed within the NSF. The office and its newly appointed director, physicist Russell C. Drew, will aid NSF director H. Guyford Stever now that the functions of the Office of Science and Technology (OST) have been transferred to the director of NSF.

The office will assist Stever in providing advice and recommendations on national science and technology policy, developing technical options for national problems in the civilian sector, appraising federal and national R&D effectiveness, coordinating Federal R&D programs (and providing staff support for the Federal Council for Science and Technology), interacting with academic and industrial science communities on science policy, and providing advice in furthering US international science and technology objectives.

Drew has a PhD in physics from Duke University. From 1966 to 1972 he served as Technical Assistant to the President's Science Adviser in OST. In the past year he was chief of the Office of Naval Research Branch Office in London. While at OST, he guided a series of advisory panels dealing with many topics including space technology, biomedical R&D, telecommunications and air traffic control. Drew also worked with the State Department and the National Security Council to develop policies for international cooperation in space.

La Silla observatory lets contract for buildings

A major contract for $3.7 million was signed recently for the buildings to house the European Southern Observatory's 3.6-meter optical telescope at ESO's La Silla site in Chile. Total cost of the project is budgeted at $26.3 million.

Contracts have already been awarded for the dome, the main structure of the telescope, special gearing for its mountings, a new power supply of 3 × 450 kVA motor-generator sets, and air-conditioning to maintain the telescope and instrumentation under constant conditions. The polishing of the mirror, ordered from Corning Glass of the US six years ago, is nearing completion in Ballainvilliers, France.

La Silla ("The Saddle") is situated on the southern edge of Chile's Atacama desert in the province of Coquimby at an altitude of 2440 meters.

Although ESO already operates six telescopes at La Silla, the 3.6-meter reflector will be the largest. Construction, soon to begin, will use Chilean labor and a team of four supervisors from The Netherlands. It will take about 30 months. If all goes according to plan, observation with the instrument can begin in 1976.

US Information Agency wants volunteer speakers

The Volunteer Speakers Service of the US Information Agency will assist Americans traveling abroad privately who would like to take part in programs sponsored by the Agency's overseas posts. These programs may take the form of panel discussions, seminars, lectures or simply attendance at events where informal contact can take place. Overseas officers of the Agency will contact prospective participants directly to enable them to decide upon programming arrangements and compensation.

Speakers of recognized accomplishment in fields such as international relations, foreign policy, economics, American art, culture, education and society are in greatest demand. There is not as large a demand for speakers in specialized fields of science. For further information write Nelson O. Chipchin, Activities Staff, ICS/DA, US Information Agency, Washington, D. C. 20647.