

have procedures established before the proposed Office of Science and Technology Policy becomes a functioning reality. The scientific court could then undergo testing in a number of experimental trials, after which it would stand ready to settle disputes brought before it. "I really think what has to happen for the first case," predicts Kantrowitz, "is that we must find an issue where both sides genuinely seek an opportunity to be heard and to cross-examine their opponents."

As the scientific court is now envisioned, it would consider only the validity of scientific findings relevant to a policy decision, to the exclusion of all value-related aspects of the problem. Some past and present issues which might lend themselves to this approach include nuclear-reactor safety, the use of pesticides and the fluorocarbon-ozone question. The process might be assumed to take place as follows:

- ▶ A Government body, faced with the need to choose between opposing scientific arguments in order to reach a policy decision, sponsors and pays for an inquiry by the scientific court.
- ▶ Advocates for conflicting scientific

views frame the question in a manner acceptable to all and impanel judges (themselves scientists but *not* experts in the area under dispute) to examine the evidence of scientific observation and experiment.

▶ The court embarks on a systematic process of elimination. The "facts" claimed by opposing contenders undergo study by judges and advocates to narrow the field of debate to essential disagreements.

▶ After the testimony of witnesses and cross-examination by advocates of both sides end, the judges report what they regard as the scientific facts to be taken into account by policy makers.

Kantrowitz believes the scientific court could be valuable because it would not be just one more panel of experts to be decried by detractors as biased toward an "establishment" view. Rather, the advocates of all sides would contest each other's assertions by due process. Because the court would eschew value judgments, Kantrowitz expects it could receive the widespread acceptance essential to democratic control of the nation's technological future. —FCB

ERDA realigns fission and fusion programs

Extensive realignment of ERDA's fission and fusion programs has produced three new divisions in a reshuffling of people and responsibilities within the agency. C. Martin Stickley, Douglas C. Bauer and Eric S. Beckjord join the ranks of ERDA's division directors.

Stickley heads the recently created Division of Laser Fusion. Under ERDA's Assistant Administrator for National Security, the new director will be responsible for laser and electron-beam fusion programs formerly carried on within the Division of Military Application. Stickley, who earned his doctorate in 1964 at Northeastern University, headed the laser-physics branch of the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories and served as Director of the Materials Sciences Office at the Advanced Research Projects Agency prior to assuming his present post.

Bauer is the new Director of the Division of Nuclear Research and Applications. He comes to ERDA from the Federal Energy Administration, where he was Associate Assistant Administrator for Utilities Programs. He will direct advanced nuclear research and development and space nuclear systems, including all reactors except the Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor. Bauer's division also takes charge of the laser isotope-separation program previously assigned to DMA. In the past, Bauer has worked at the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory. He received his doctorate in nuclear engineering on page 96

New ERDA assistant administrator

Robert L. Hirsch has been confirmed by the Senate as the new Assistant Administrator for Solar, Geothermal and Advanced Energy Systems at ERDA. Hirsch succeeds John M. Teem, who resigned the post in January. Meanwhile Edwin E. Kintner is acting director of the Division of Controlled Thermonuclear Research in Hirsch's stead.

After he received his doctorate in nuclear engineering from the University of Illinois in 1964, Hirsch spent four years as a research physicist at ITT Industrial Laboratories, where he directed the nuclear-engineering and plasma-physics department. In 1968 he joined the Atomic Energy Commission's CTR program. He rose to the position of director of the CTR division in November, 1972, and continued in that role when ERDA was formed.

From 1971 to 1973 Hirsch acted as vice-chairman and later chairman of the American Nuclear Society's Technical Group for Controlled Nuclear Fusion; he was elected an ANS director in 1975. In 1972 Hirsch headed the Fusion Power Task Force, part of an energy-R&D goals study conducted that year by the Federal Council on Science and Technology. He led the US membership of the US-USSR Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation in 1973.

Kintner, who left an AEC-associated naval reactor program in 1965 to join the agency, holds MS degrees in naval architecture and marine engineering and in

nuclear physics. He served as assistant director and later deputy director of the reactor-engineering division. Kintner has been substantially involved with the Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor Project at ERDA and has completed his first year in the CTR division.

Washington Bulletins

★ **A \$3-million allocation for the Large Space Telescope**, included in the House's FY 1977 authorization bill for NASA, has been omitted from the Senate's corresponding measure. The Senate turned down funds for the project despite the LST's designation by Senator Barry M. Goldwater (R.-Ariz.) as "one of the most important programs ever proposed in the field of astronomy" and a plea by Senator Charles McC. Mathias Jr (R.-Md.) to follow the House's action. A Congressional conference committee must resolve the matter.

★ **The NSF has weathered authorization proceedings in the House** with fair success. As well as authorizing an FY 1977 budget of \$811 million for the agency, the Congress defeated by substantial margins amendments that would have required the NSF's director to answer within 15 days any request by any Member of Congress concerning agency activities and would have reduced the curriculum-development program in favor of summer institutes for teachers. The House bill, which trimmed \$10 million for research from the Administration's request but added \$9 million for science education, now goes to the Senate.

★ **Dixy Lee Ray's State-Department post**, officially unfilled since last summer (when she resigned the job as lacking in influence) will be occupied at last. The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Frederick Irving, an officer in the US Foreign Service, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

★ **Funds for ERDA received approval in the Senate**, which passed without amendment an authorization bill for the agency's FY 1976 and transition-quarter budgets.