

ERDA realigns

continued from page 94

neering from Carnegie-Mellon University in 1972 and was a White House Fellow before joining FEA in 1973.

Beckjord, named Director of the Division of Reactor Development and Demonstration, assumes responsibility for development of the LMFBR program. All related projects—such as the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Project, a 350-MW demonstration plant—come under the new division's aegis as well. Beckjord, formerly Associate Director for Policy Evaluation in FEA's nuclear-affairs office, holds an MS in electrical engineering from MIT. Before the FEA appointment he had served in a number of management positions at Westinghouse Electric Corp.

The reorganization, according to ERDA's Assistant Administrator for Nuclear Energy Robert W. Roberts, is intended to create "a more effective line operation in nuclear energy to meet our nation's goal of energy independence." Further developments in the realignment include the establishment of a Laser Planning and Coordination Group to coordinate the agency's laser-fusion program with its Division of Controlled Thermonuclear Research's inertial-confinement fusion efforts. The two-man group will consist of the Assistant Administrator for Solar, Geothermal and Advanced Energy Systems, who will act as chairman, and the Assistant Administrator for National Security.

Funds per physicist

continued from page 93

the US and risen for most other countries (see table). Different accounting systems make comparisons suspect, NSB notes.

In 1964, 475 000 US citizens were engaged in R&D work as scientists and engineers, compared to 463 000 for the Soviets. By 1973 the figures had changed to 523 000 in the US versus 931 000 in the USSR, despite similar rates of growth in general population.

The US patent balance (the difference between the number of patents granted to the US by other nations and those granted them by the US) decayed between 1966 and 1973 with respect to all countries surveyed. Also, the percentage of major

technological innovations—as defined in a study commissioned specifically for the NSB report—contributed by this nation fell from 82% in the years 1956–58 to 58% in the 1971–73 period. Americans did manage to increase their lead in the export of technical "know-how" and of research-intensive products from industry.

Science Indicators 1974 is available from the US Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$4.60.—FCB

Engineering professor is White House Fellow

Martin C. Jischke, professor of aerospace, mechanical and nuclear engineering at the University of Oklahoma, is currently serving a one-year term as a 1975–76 White House Fellow. Jischke is a special assistant to William T. Coleman Jr, Secretary of Transportation.

The fellowship program began in 1964 in an attempt to expose young professionals to the processes of government. In the current program, 14 fellows serve as special assistants to senior members of the White House staff, Cabinet members and the Vice-President. The fellows function in an advisory capacity by providing background information, staffing meetings and participating in task forces. The fellows also hold educational seminar-meetings with individuals in leadership positions for special interest talks and policy discussions.

As a White House Fellow, Jischke has had various responsibilities in the Department of Transportation, for example, studying current automobile safety standards, and joining the task force investigating a proposal for a new airport in the St. Louis area. The term for the fellows ends 31 August, at which time Jischke will return to teaching.

NSF to operate Sacramento Peak

The National Science Foundation has assumed the responsibility for the operation of the Sacramento Peak Observatory in New Mexico, an Air Force research facility that was to be phased out by 30 June, as a result of Defense Department cutbacks.

After preliminary discussions, it became evident that the NSF had an obligation to review the overall research programs at the Observatory, and to determine the relative priority of the Observatory's programs in astronomy. Consequently, the director of NSF, H. Guyford Stever, convened an *ad hoc* advisory committee consisting of nine astronomers and headed by Martin Schwarzschild of Princeton University. The committee met in January and (assisted by representatives of the scientific

community, interested Federal agencies, NASA, ERDA and the Air Force) said that because the Observatory plays an essential role in solar-energy research, it should be maintained at a productive level by NSF.

The estimated FY 1976 budget for the Observatory is \$2.2 million.

Panel to study needs for synchrotron radiation

An ad hoc panel formed by the National Research Council's Assembly of Mathematical and Physical Sciences will assess the national need for a dedicated source of synchrotron radiation. Robert W. Morse of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute heads the panel.

Members will evaluate the scientific impact, potential user base and machine characteristics of synchrotron-radiation sources, with emphasis on the scientific opportunities such sources make possible. To obtain information bearing on future scientific applications and potential user demand for synchrotron radiation, the panel seeks assistance from biologists, crystallographers, materials scientists and others. Contributors should write before 21 May to Charles K. Reed, AMPS Executive Director, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20418.

in brief

The 1972 Scientist and Engineer Population Redefined, Volume 1, Demographic, Education, and Professional Characteristics (NSF 75-313) is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402 at \$3.70 per copy.

The National Technical Information Service of the US Department of Commerce publishes *Energy*, a weekly guide to technical reports on Federal energy research. A one-year subscription costs \$40.00. For more information, write to NTIS, US Department of Commerce, Springfield, Va. 22161.

Copies of *Expenditures for Scientific and Engineering Activities at Universities and Colleges Fiscal Year 1973* (NSF 75-316) are available from the US Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. 20402 at \$2.45 per copy.

The National Science Foundation has announced its 1976 Scientists and Engineers in Economic Development (SEED) program, which enables scientists in US universities to teach and conduct research in developing countries. For information, contact the Office of International Programs, NSF, Washington, D.C. 20550. □

R&D expenditures as percent of GNP

	1963	1973
US	2.90%	2.35%
USSR	2.37	3.10
West Germany	1.38	2.36
France	1.53	1.73
Japan	1.25	1.92