

analysis subcommittee. Rather more significantly, solar- and geothermal-energy technologies and energy conservation are now the only concerns of Congressman Mike McCormack's (D-4th CD, Wash.) subcommittee, which was less limited last session. Fusion research, plus nuclear energy and fuel-cycle technology, now comes under the authority of Congressman Walter Flowers's (D-7th CD, Ala.) subcommittee, concerned only with fossil fuels in its previous incarnation. McCormack has been closely associated with energy legislation in the past; Flowers has not.

End of a monopoly. The once-powerful Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, which confined to a handful of Senators and Congressmen legislative and oversight jurisdiction over all aspects of nuclear power and fusion, died "not with a bang" early in the year. A number of its influential members from the Senate did not return this session, so that few Senators had much interest in fighting for the JCAE's survival; meanwhile, in the House, Congressman Jonathan B. Bingham (DL-22nd CD, N.Y.) and Clarence Long (D-2nd CD, Md.) led a successful effort in the House Democratic Caucus to have JCAE scrapped and its authority parcelled out to other committees (see PHYSICS TODAY, February, page 70). Flowers's subcommittee absorbed nuclear research; military nuclear applications went to Congressman Richard Ichord's (D-8th CD, Mo.) subcommittee under Armed Services; jurisdiction over the Nuclear Regulatory Commission now belongs to the energy and environment subcommittee headed by Congressman Morris Udall (D-2nd CD, Ariz.), who also serves as the new chairman of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; subcommittees headed by Congressmen John D. Dingell (D-16th CD, Mich.) and Paul G. Rogers (D-11th CD, Fla.) have taken over regulation and oversight of nuclear facilities, and control of nuclear-technology export and proliferation control is now lodged in the full International Relations Committee under its new chairman, Congressman Clement Zablocki (D-4th CD, Wis.).

New faces in science legislation. In the 94th Congress no one Senator could be regarded as exclusively in charge of scientific-research matters—Democrats John Tunney of California and Frank Moss of Utah (both defeated for re-election last year), together with Kennedy, were perhaps most visible in this area. There is still no one "science Senator," but Stevenson appears likely to attain prominence in his new position. His subcommittee has already held extensive hearings on the NASA authorization, and it has oversight on the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment and the National Bureau of Standards, as well as over national science

Science-related Congressional committees and their chairmen

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Armed Services	Melvin Price	(23rd CD, Ill.)
Subcommittee on Research and Development	Richard H. Ichord	(8th CD, Mo.)
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs	Morris K. Udall	(2nd CD, Ariz.)
Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment	Udall	
Committee on International Relations	Clement Zablocki	(4th CD, Wisc.)
Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce	Harley O. Staggers	(2nd CD, W. Va.)
Subcommittee on Energy and Power	John D. Dingell	(16th CD, Mich.)
Subcommittee on Health and the Environment	Paul G. Rogers	(11th CD, Fla.)
Committee on Science and Technology	Olin E. Teague	(6th CD, Tex.)
Subcommittee on Transportation, Aviation and the Weather	Dale Milford	(24th CD, Tex.)
Subcommittee on Domestic and International Planning, Analysis and Cooperation	James H. Scheuer	(11th CD, N.Y.)
Subcommittee on Advanced Energy Technologies and Energy Conservation R, D & D	Mike McCormack	(4th CD, Wash.)
Subcommittee on Fossil and Nuclear Energy R, D & D	Walter Flowers	(7th CD, Ala.)
Subcommittee on Science, Research and Technology	Ray Thornton	(4th CD, Ark.)
Subcommittee on Space Science and Applications	Don Fuqua	(2nd CD, Fla.)
Subcommittee on Energy and Environment	George E. Brown, Jr	(36th CD, Cal.)

SENATE

Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation	Warren G. Magnuson	(Wash.)
Subcommittee on Aviation	Howard W. Cannon	(Nev.)
Subcommittee on Communications	Ernest F. Hollings	(S.C.)
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation	Russell B. Long	(Lou.)
Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space	Adlai E. Stevenson III	(Ill.)
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	Henry M. Jackson	(Wash.)
Subcommittee on Energy R&D	Frank Church	(Ida.)
Committee on Environment and Public Works	Jennings Randolph	(W. Va.)
Subcommittee on Resource Protection	John C. Culver	(Iowa)
Subcommittee on Nuclear Regulation	Gary Hart	(Colo.)
Committee on Human Resources	Harrison A. Williams Jr	(N. J.)
Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research	Edward M. Kennedy	(Mass.)
Committee on Finance	Long	
Subcommittee on Energy and Foundations	Mike Gravel	(Alas.)

policy generally. The new Stevenson subcommittee will probably have much to say about basic-research programs in physics and other sciences. Interestingly enough, freshman Senator Harrison Schmitt (R-N.M.), a former Apollo astronaut mentioned in our October issue as one of the 1976 "scientist-candidates," is the ranking Republican member on the Stevenson subcommittee.

In the House, Flowers's leadership of the subcommittee that must pass on fission and fusion RD&D is an imponderable. Another one is the transfer of Congressman Ray Thornton (D-4th CD, Ark.) from chairman of the planning and anal-

ysis subcommittee to that of the Subcommittee on Science, Research and Technology, the House body with jurisdiction over the National Science Foundation. —FCB

NSF to seek proposals on new institute

The National Science Foundation expects to solicit proposals to establish, on a five-year trial basis, a new institute for theoretical physics. This institute would be especially intended to facilitate effective work on problems that cut across

traditional physics subfield lines, according to Boris Kayser, program director for theoretical physics in the Division of Physics. Of course, he noted, an institute structure can also serve other purposes, such as the bringing together of physicists from different locations and age groups to stimulate the continued flow of new ideas into physics generally.

The institute being considered would operate year-round. Most of the participants would be visitors, but leadership would come from a core of approximately three physicists on two- or three-year leaves from their home institutions. Among the participants all levels of seniority, from graduate student to full professor, would be represented. With 30 persons present at any one time, the institute would cost about \$1 million per year to operate.

Further information may be obtained

in a Project Announcement on the institute, which is being prepared for distribution to all PhD-granting physics departments, national laboratories and related institutions. It is expected that proposers will need to notify the NSF Division of Physics of their intent to submit a proposal by 15 June.

Kayser strongly emphasized that although considerable discussion of the institute has already taken place, proposals based on alternative ideas for dealing with the intended goals will also be welcome.

in brief

Nearly 500 Fulbright-Hays awards will be available for university teaching and advanced research in 92 countries for

1978-79—a number of the awards are in physics or physics-related areas. Those desiring an announcement of opportunity should write to the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 11 Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C. 20036. Letters should include highest degree, speciality and country of interest; the deadline for applications for the American Republics, Australia and New Zealand is 1 June and, for Africa, Asia and Europe, the date is 1 July.

The National Science Foundation will award international travel support to some 80 young US scientists to attend NATO Advanced Study Institutes in Europe during the summer of 1977. General information and a list of the Institutes may be obtained from NATO Travel Awards, NSF Division of Science Manpower Improvement, Washington, D.C. 20550.

the physics community

Science-writing award for 1977 goes to Metz

William D. Metz, senior writer in the research-news section of *Science* magazine, is the 1977 journalist winner of the American Institute of Physics-United States Steel Foundation Science-Writing Award in Physics and Astronomy. This award is given twice yearly, in the fall to a scientist and in the spring to a journalist. Metz was chosen for his three-part series, "Fusion Research," which appeared in *Science* on 25 June, 2 July and 23 July 1976.

Metz earned his doctorate in experimental nuclear physics at Yale University in 1971. That year he joined the staff of

Science to do science reporting; he began writing almost immediately about physics and astronomy. Six months before the 1973 oil embargo, he and two other staff members published a book on *Energy and the Future*. In addition to fusion, Metz reports on planetary science, geophysics, the specialized applications of lasers, x-ray stars, black holes and, in the last year, the status of European breeder-reactor technology.

The presentation of the Science-Writing Award, including \$1500, a citation and a Moebius-strip trophy, was made in April by the director of AIP, H. William Koch, at the Washington Meeting of The American Physical Society.

Physicists petition Soviet Academy on Orlov arrest

In an expression of concern over the recent arrest of Soviet physicist Yuri Orlov, more than 200 high-energy physicists have signed a telegram that has been sent to the vice-president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, A. A. Logunov. The signers, who include members of high-energy physics laboratories and many universities throughout Europe and the US, told Logunov that they considered Orlov "a respected member of the international community of high-energy physicists" and also expressed hope that "that matter of his arrest [could] be favorably resolved in short order."

According to *The New York Times*, Orlov was arrested by Soviet authorities in Moscow on 10 February. Orlov had worked on large storage-ring projects at the Physical Institute in Yerevan until he moved to Moscow. Orlov is the founder and chairman of an unofficial committee

that monitors Soviet compliance with the human-rights provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Agreement; he also works closely with Andrei Sakharov and is a corresponding member of the Armenian Academy of Sciences.

—BCC

Sturrock reports his UFO-survey results

A report of a survey intended to evaluate the interest, views and thoughts of the astronomical community on the UFO problem has been published by Peter A. Sturrock, professor of space science and astrophysics at Stanford University. Sturrock used the mailing list of the American Astronomical Society to distribute 2611 questionnaires, of which 1356 were returned, 34 anonymously.

The aims of the survey, according to Sturrock, were to solicit opinions on the scientific significance of sightings and also to determine if members of the group could report such phenomena, thereby making a case for opening the subject to scientific investigation or dismissing it. In answer to the question on whether the UFO problem deserves scientific study, 23% of the respondents replied "certainly," 30% "probably," 27% "possibly," 17% "probably not" and 3% "certainly not." Sturrock states that the returns identified 62 respondents who had witnessed or obtained an instrumental record of an event that they could not identify and they thought might be related to a UFO phenomenon.

For further information on the study (SUIPR report No. 681), write to Sturrock at the Institute for Plasma Research, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. 94305.



METZ