

that as Deputy Director and then as Acting Director. He was the first behavioral scientist to head NSF.

Although nobody has been named yet to succeed Atkinson, Donald Langenberg, a University of Pennsylvania solid-state physicist, has been nominated to replace George Pimentel as deputy director. Langenberg received his PhD in 1959 from the University of California at Berkeley. He has been at the University of Pennsylvania since 1960, taking the occasional leave to accept visiting professorships at the University of Paris and Michigan State University and Sloan and Guggenheim fellowships. From 1974 to 1979 Langenberg served as vice provost for graduate studies and research at Pennsylvania. He has been chairman of the NSF advisory council and a member of the committee on government relations since 1977.

Pimentel is now head of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory's division of chemical biodynamics and an associate director of the laboratory (PHYSICS TODAY, January, page 99).

Hill group funds new faculty posts in Northwest

Over the next five years, the Northwest Area Foundation of St. Paul, Minnesota will make \$1.5 million available to assist young faculty members in the northwestern US. The Universities of Minnesota and Washington will divide equally \$1.25 million to underwrite the salaries and research costs of a total of eleven new assistant professors. In addition, the Foundation has awarded \$250 000 to the Research Corporation, New York City, for distribution to young researchers in the Northwest.

The Northwest Area Foundation is a philanthropic organization devoted to the promotion of the general public welfare. It was created in 1934 by Louis W. Hill Sr, son of James J. Hill, founder of the Great Northern Railway. The Foundation concentrates on the region the railway served: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North and South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota.

By the fall of 1981, the University of Minnesota will have placed one new assistant professor of astronomy, four of physics and a single new assistant professor of biochemistry on its staff. Also by that time, the University of Washington hopes to have hired a physicist, an astrophysicist, an atmospheric scientist and two chemists. The newly employed scientists will be no more than five years past their doctorates and will perform teaching as well as research duties. The universities have agreed to make these tenure-track positions, with tenure to be

awarded through normal university channels.

Discussions on the grant program began in late 1978 between Northwest Area Foundation directors and Warren E. Ibele, dean of the University of Minnesota Graduate School. "With projections of declining enrollments," Ibele noted, "it is unlikely that there will be sufficient support in the [Minnesota] state legislature for maintaining a flow of young talent into the physical sciences at the University of Minnesota." Sometime after the inception of these talks, Ronald Geballe, vice provost for research and dean of the Graduate School at the University of Washington, was invited to enter the negotiations, which were concluded in the latter part of 1979. "The grants are intended to enable young scientific faculty to survive the current period of retrenchment until new money is found or older professors retire," observed Geballe.

The Research Corporation has agreed to handle the administration of grants averaging \$10 000 to academic researchers in the Northwest area. It will also meet the cost of any supplemental support on a case-by-case basis. The Research Corporation is a foundation dedicated to the advancement of the sciences (PHYSICS TODAY, August 1979, page 70).

A lack of academic job positions for newly trained science PhD's has been a topic of concern of various advisory and policy-making groups for several years. Historically, some 75% of US basic scientific research has been conducted in academic institutions. During the 1970's a number of factors—inflation, uncertainty about future funding and a decline in college enrollment—combined to hurt university research programs. As universities lost their discretionary resources, science faculties became top-heavy with tenured staff and little room was made available to incoming PhD holders.

In January 1979, NSF established a cross-directorate Staff Group on Support of Young Investigators. Simultaneously, the NSF director requested that the National Academy of Sciences assess the problem. The NAS study was performed by the Committee on Continuity in Academic Research Performance, which was headed by Robert M. Bock, dean of the Graduate School at the University of Wisconsin. Released last August, the NSF and the Academy reports both identified physics as one of the fields currently suffering from a serious lack of opportunities for the recent PhD. They predict that college enrollment and the retirement rate for tenured professors should grow in the early 1990's; so any assistance program should be designed to last for approximately fifteen years. Various mecha-

nisms for the support of young scientists were suggested in the reports but as yet no national programs have been implemented.

The Northwest Area Foundation has asked Bock to conduct annual evaluations of its grant program. At the end of four years, the program will undergo more extensive evaluation to determine its efficacy. The Foundation hopes that the program will be judged sufficiently effective to merit extension to 15 years (in five-year intervals).—SCA

Industry organization to push fusion power

A group of major high-technology companies has formed Fusion Power Associates, a nonprofit organization that will try to ease the transition to the commercial use of fusion energy. More specifically, the group plans to prepare a fusion engineering development strategy for the 1980's, to publicize fusion energy in the popular media, to sponsor fusion research seminars and meetings and to issue and distribute a newsletter on fusion. Although primarily industry-based, membership is open to all interested public and private organizations. Stephen Dean, formerly in the DOE office of fusion energy, is president and chairman of the board of directors.

Other members of the board are: Henry Gomberg (KMS Fusion); Donald Kummer (McDonnell-Douglas Astronautics Co); Bernard Eastlund (BDM Corp); Ronald Davidson (MIT); Nicholas Krall (JAYCOR); Sherman Naymark (Quadrex Corp); Tihoro Ohkawa (General Atomic Co); Paul Reardon (Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory); Leonard Reichle (Ebasco Services); Peter Rose (Mathematical Sciences Northwest); Glen Sorenson (ILC Technology Inc); Alvin Trivelpiece (Science Applications Inc); James Williams (Los Alamos); Gerold Yonas (Sandia Laboratories), and Donald Zeifang (Baker and Hostetler law offices).

in brief

MIT and Appalachia-Science in the Public Interest, an Appalachian public service science organization, have each been awarded three-year grants by the National Science Foundation to set up public service science centers, which will sponsor public forums, workshops and demonstrations on the scientific aspects of public policy issues. The grants, totalling \$505 000, were made through NSF's Science for Citizens Program, which expects to support several similar centers.