

ever, when Trivelpiece was asked how much freedom he had in shifting funds within DOE to protect basic research he replied that he had "essentially no flexibility. A directive was issued to take 12% off each appropriation line item."

Another aspect of the flexibility issue was explained by Leon Lederman (director of Fermilab). He stated that "flexibility has been squeezed out of the national lab budgets—60–70% is for salaries, 15–20% for electrical power and another 5–10% is committed in miscellaneous fixed operational expenses." This reduced flexibility pertains to many institutions and was discussed throughout the meeting. The consensus seemed to be that it was due, at least in part, to one of the "mismatches" between government and science planners. Research program planners work in a long time frame, with most of their money committed to ongoing projects and operations. But government budget cutting can be abrupt, and short-term decisions can cause long-term damage to basic research.

At a press conference held the next day, the meeting participants' recommendations, arrived at by consensus at a closed session were presented. Among the key recommendations were:

- ▶ Consider R&D across the entire government instead of agency by agency and allocate funds between R&D to maintain basic science.
- ▶ "Instruct departments and agencies to maintain the strength of science in cuts to agency budget allocations."
- ▶ Direct a large part of the increased national security budget to fund basic research as it "is essential to that security."
- ▶ Recognize that science has "suffered a decade of little or no growth" and needs to be strengthened "to maintain competence in the national labs."
- ▶ Recognize the link between science education and research and "continue graduate student support."
- ▶ "Recognize the need to revitalize the instrumentation and facility base on which future technological advance depends."
- ▶ A strong mechanism is needed to allow the scientific community to "advise on resource allocations and analyze the impacts of budget strategies."
- ▶ A review of "the institutional system for the support of R&D" is timely, with input from all sources of the science community. This review should "look across departments and agencies to achieve the most productive use of resources."
- ▶ It is a national priority to insure the continued flow of scientists and engineers. To accomplish this, policies in support of science education must be established at all levels of government.

—JC

Regional network of Puerto Rican scientists

Seventy-five Puerto Rican scientists, engineers and students meeting last April set up regional networks and called for the formation of an organization to serve their interests. A national association may be organized at next January's AAAS meeting.

The April meeting was held under the auspices of AAAS and sections of NIH. S. Maria Hardy, a physiologist from Louisiana State University, chaired the conference. General Enrique Mendez, deputy surgeon general of the US Army, spoke on the absence, in chronicles of American history, of coverage of the long tradition of Hispanic culture in the US. Zora Griffo and William Raub of NIH and Manuel Gomez Rodriguez, dean of natural science at the University of Puerto Rico, also spoke.

Participants decried federal budget cuts, which they see in conflict with their goals, and made the following recommendations:

- ▶ encouraging Puerto Rican students to study science by producing materials to publicize achievements of Puerto Rican scientists and publicizing travel-

ing exhibits that offer students "hands on" experience in science,

- ▶ updating and computerizing a directory of Puerto Rican scientists for use in role-model projects, network creation and peer review assignments by science agencies,
- ▶ starting career orientation programs that inform Puerto Rican (and other) students on graduate school application, financial aid, and the availability of academic resources,
- ▶ increasing research experience opportunities for undergraduate students,
- ▶ promoting student attendance at scientific meetings as a way to acquaint them with how scientists conduct their business and to provide them with contacts,
- ▶ using churches, Puerto Rican clubs, and Spanish language media to disseminate information about science and scientists.

Persons interested in further information can contact the Office of Opportunities in Science at AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N. W. Washington, DC 20036.

NSF committee on equal opportunities

The NSF Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Technology held its first meeting late this Spring. Under the leadership of Cora B. Marrett, professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin, the group will advise NSF on ways to encourage the full participation of women and members of minority groups in science and engineering. NSF Director John B. Slaughter has

asked the Committee to explore the nature of barriers that inhibit women and members of minority groups in science and engineering research.

Among the members of the group are Carol Jo Crannell, an astrophysicist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, and Carl Spight, Vice-President for Corporate Research at AMAF Industries, Columbia, Maryland.

in brief

Federal Support to Universities, Colleges, and Selected Nonprofit Institutions, Fiscal Year 1978 presents data from fourteen Federal agencies that supported research and development in academic and other nonprofit institutions. Copies, \$5.50, are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC 20402. (stock number 038-000-00-451-14.)

NSF has published *Academic Science: 1972–77*, which presents data collected from academic institutions in surveys of research and development expenditures, employment of scientists and engineers, and graduate enrollment in science and engineering. Copies may be purchased for

\$4.25 from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC 20402 (stock number 038-000-00452-2).

MIT has established the Stratton Professorship of Electrical Engineering and Physics, honoring Julius Stratton, the eleventh president of MIT, with a gift from William Hewlett, chairman of the executive committee of Hewlett-Packard Co. The chair will be occupied alternately by a faculty member from the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and the Department of Physics. James R. Melcher, director of MIT's High Voltage Laboratory, has been named the first Stratton Professor.