

members—Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and Columbia University in New York City. Both had angered many academic scientists and university presidents by hiring a well-known lobbying firm, Schlossberg-Casidy & Associates of Washington, D.C., to convince Congress to support the construction of new science buildings in the FY 1984 appropriations bill for the Department of Energy (PHYSICS TODAY, August, page 45). Neither of the laboratory buildings had been approved by orthodox peer-review procedures, which have been used for government grants to science over the past 30 years. This was particularly nettlesome to many scientists and DOE officials, because some \$10 million for the facilities was taken out of the budgets for other projects that had gone through some form of peer review.

No sooner had the AAU statement appeared than the governing council of the National Academy of Sciences, on 30 October, issued a resolution calling on university officials and government leaders to "exercise vigilance" in protecting peer review in the decision-making process for supporting scientific research proposals as well as for awarding funds for scientific facilities and instrumentation. "Informed peer judgments on the scientific merits of specific proposals, in open competition, should be a central element in the awarding of all Federal funds for science," reads the resolution of the NAS council.

Neither the NAS nor the AAU mentioned any institutions by name, but Robert E. Marshak, president of The American Physical Society, did in a letter on 17 October to all 535 members

of Congress. He argued against the "pork-barrel" tactics used by Congress to fund new buildings at Catholic and Columbia universities while making an end-run around "the established procedures of submission and review... Failure to follow such procedures leads invariably to a widespread perception that success in the competition for Federal research funds is less dependent on scientific merit than on having the right connections. In our opinion, confidence in the system has been seriously shaken by these instances and will be restored only by the rigorous adherence to the established procedures in all future scientific funding."

To nearly everyone's surprise, the proclamations drew an immediate response in Congress. Amendments providing a total of \$44.3 million for renovation and construction of buildings at Boston University and the universities of Pennsylvania and New Mexico were attached to the Labor, Education and Health and Human Services appropriations bill by the Senate on 4 October. Then came the spate of statements by the AAU, NAS and APS. On 9 November the funds were deleted by a House-Senate conference committee. "This is out-and-out pork," shouted Representative Robert H. Michel (R-Ill.), the House minority leader. Michel's view had the backing of the majority as well. A week earlier, House Speaker Thomas J. (Tip) O'Neill Jr (D-Mass.) agreed with Representative Don Fuqua (D-Fla.), chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee, that peer review would henceforth be honored in evaluating proposals for Federal funding of scientific research facilities and large scientific instruments. —IG

Keyworth appoints five OSTP assistants

Speculations on the goings and comings of top people at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where the deputy director and all four assistant directors have jumped the ship of state since August, came to an end over the Thanksgiving weekend. The positions were filled with a modest three-page announcement by George A. Keyworth II, the President's science adviser. By retitling some of the jobs and adding a fifth assistant director, Keyworth indicated that he was restructuring the office, which is already three times the size of OSTP during the Carter administration. Even more significant, though, are his choices—half of them research scientists with little or no Washington connection rather than career bureaucrats or members of the academic "club" who move in and out of Federal advisory jobs.

The new deputy director is John P. McTague, a physical chemist who was chairman of the National Synchrotron Light Source Department at Brookhaven National Laboratory and, simultaneously, Adjunct Professor of Chemistry at Columbia University. He had been professor of chemistry at UCLA from 1970 to 1982 and staff scientist at North American Aviation from 1964 to 1970. He replaces Ronald Frankum, a non-scientist who departed OSTP on 1 October to be chairman of Telecom Futures, Inc.

The assistant directors:

► Ralph M. DeVries, General Science, who headed the nuclear-physics program at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Keyworth's *alma mater* before becoming director of OSTP. DeVries has taught at the Center for Nuclear Studies at Saclay, the Univer-

sity of Washington and, before joining Los Alamos in 1978, the University of Rochester. He succeeds N. Douglas Pewitt, a physicist who made Washington science policy his specialty at the Center for Naval Analysis, Office of Management and Budget, DOE and OSTP. He has gone to Western Research Corp.

► Richard G. Johnson, Space Science and Technology, a physicist at Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. since 1956. This assistant directorship apparently reflects Keyworth's occupation with a proposed missile defense system that has been dubbed "Star Wars" (PHYSICS TODAY, December, page 43).

► James G. Ling, Institutional Relations and (acting) for Life Sciences. Born in China, Ling received his PhD in nuclear resource management from Stanford in 1967 and spent 21 years in various civilian posts at the Air Force. He held management posts at the Department of Energy and MITRE Corp. before joining OSTP in 1981, where he provided staff work, notably, for the panel of the White House Science Council, led by David Packard, that recently examined the condition of the Federal laboratories (PHYSICS TODAY, September, page 39). Ling replaced Denis Prager, a Carter holdover who left last May for the National Academy of Sciences, then joined the MacArthur Foundation in Chicago.

► Wallace R. Kornack, Energy, Natural Resources and International Affairs. A mechanical engineer, Kornack has served on the staff of the former Atomic Energy Commission and Energy Research and Development Administration and, more recently, at the Department of Energy before joining OSTP in 1982. This assistant directorship had been held by John Marcum, who went to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris.

► Maurice A. Roesch III, Defense Technology and Systems. A Marine Corps colonel on active duty, Roesch acquired a PhD in systems management from the University of Virginia in 1979. His biography states he has "extensive experience in combat engineering, systems acquisition, intelligence and operations analysis" and has taught naval science at the University of Virginia and systems management at the University of Southern California. He replaces Victor Reis, who left in August for Science Applications, Inc.

The creation of an acting assistant director for life sciences suggests that Keyworth intends to make the post permanent—an action that would dispel in part strong criticism by the life sciences and social sciences communities for OSTP's emphasis on physical sciences and technology in the Keyworth era. —IG □