month's Senate vote in favor of the SSC, 120 House members signed a letter to Speaker Thomas S. Foley, urging him to appoint several foes of the project to membership on the conference committee this time.

Before the Senate voted, the leading opponent in that chamber, Dale L. Bumpers, an Arkansas Democrat, was fairly certain his side would fail again. Notwithstanding, he was unprepared for a maneuver that even surprised the collider's protagonists. Bumpers had been given the opportunity to introduce the first amendment to the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, which funds the SSC. But he was more than a half-hour late coming to the Senate floor. In Bumpers's absence, the bill's floor manager, J. Bennett Johnston, the Louisiana Democrat who heads the Senate appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over energy programs, allowed Hank Brown, a Colorado Republican and Vietnam War veteran serving his first term, to offer an amendment. Brown proposed that any funds allocated to the SSC should not be spent until Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary certifies that she will enforce the specific recommendations made by the department's Review Committee on Baseline Validation of SSC costs and by the Government Accounting Office's review of the project's management. Though Johnston hadn't expected Brown's amendment, he supported it, he said, because O'Leary had assured him that "she is going to do just that." For his part, though, Johnston preferred providing a 90-day grace period while O'Leary carries out her corrective actions, thereby allowing scientists, staff and contractors to be paid in the interim. Brown's amendment, as modified by Johnston, passed without dissent by voice vote in a nearly empty Senate and had the effect of derailing Bumpers's amendment off its track.

—IRWIN GOODWIN

WASHINGTON INS & OUTS

NASA GETS NEW CHIEF SCIENTIST; DOE LOSES A NUCLEAR VETERAN

Ever since **Lennard Fisk** left NASA last July, the space agency has been without a chief scientist—a situation many in the space science community viewed with indifference or hostility, given the way the organization's feisty administrator, Daniel S. Goldin, had jettisoned some of its unique research and analysis activities. Within weeks, though, Goldin decided he wanted a chief scientist after all—principally to diffuse the anger his decisions had generated in the academic community and also to bolster the morale of scientists within NASA. Skeptics feared a crony would be plucked from NASA's own ranks who would not argue with Goldin's views. But when Goldin revealed on 10 September that he had selected a new chief scientist, the community was enthused by his choice: **France Anne-Dominic Cordova,** a high-energy astrophysicist and head of the astronomy and astrophysics department at Pennsylvania State University.

Cordova's scientific credentials make her a prominent representative of the space research community. "She is certainly qualified for the job," says C. R. O'Dell, a space physicist at Rice University and a former NASA project manager. "She brings ability, energy and connections to the position. Another characteristic is her active, assertive style. She won't be confined to a back room. She'll bring some fresh air to the upper reaches of NASA." Andrea Dupree of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory also emphasizes Cordova's ability to "articulate her position forcefully." And Dupree adds: "More often than not her position is balanced. There's no question that she is on top of her field. Equally important in her new position is that she has her eye on the right kind of problems."

Goldin and others must have thought so too. Once Goldin and White House officials, including President Clinton's science adviser, John H. Gibbons, approved of Cordova, it was Edward Freiman, director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, who actually proposed the job to her by phone. This was followed promptly by a call from Goldin and, a few days later, a visit to his office.

Cordova's scientific work covers a wide range of subjects: observational and experimental astrophysics, multispectral research on x-ray and gamma-ray sources, ultraviolet spectroscopy of nearby binary stars, thermal emissions from neutron stars, and spaceborne instrumentation—for starters. "Her contributions to research are simply staggering," says Dupree.

When she joins NASA in mid-October, Cordova will continue to be associated with Penn State. She will be on extended leave from the university, which means that she will not be a government employee and that NASA will reimburse Penn State for her salary. She also intends to continue as thesis adviser to her graduate students and to supervise a few postdocs.

In addition, Cordova will continue as one of the American Astronomical Society's three vice presidents, a position she was elected to this year (PHYSICS TODAY, June, page 80). While she is not a Washington insider, she is certainly a member of the astronomical establishment. She served on the board of the Associated Universities for Research, which directs Kitt Peak, Cerro Tololo and the Hubble Space Telescope Institute, among other places. She was a member of NASA's Space Science and Applications Advisory Committee until it was disbanded by Goldin last year, and she was on astronomy or space science advisory groups at the National Science Foundation and the National Research Council.

As chief scientist, Cordova will be the administrator's senior scientific adviser. She also will be the principal link to Goldin for the national and international science communities, according to the agency's news announcement, "to ensure that NASA programs are universally regarded as scientifically and technologically well founded and appropriate for their intended applications." The announcement further states, "One of her critical duties will be to coordinate an integrated strategic plan for all the scientific disciplines across NASA."

The statement neglects to mention that in addition she will need to sort out her own relationships and those of Goldin with the three associate administrators whose responsibilities once came under the aegis of a single

associate administrator for the Office of Space Science and Applications. Fisk was the last to head that office before Goldin ripped it into three parts last year and left Fisk with only the title of chief scientist.

While Cordova expects to operate "behind the scenes," she said in a telephone interview, she does not intend to bring any influence to bear on grants and contracts, because of her Penn State faculty position. Her influence on NASA programs will depend, to be sure, on her access to Goldin and on his acceptance of her ideas. Cordova says she will work to advance the "wide range of great science that can be performed in space." She is optimistic that scientific experiments will be on board the space station when it is launched. "I plan to see to that," she asserts. "If the space station doesn't have scientific research, that would be a lost opportunity. I'm dedicated to getting the most science for the dollars."

Born in Paris, where her father, a US State Department foreign service officer, was chief of mission for CARE, Cordova received her BA in English from Stanford University in 1969 and considered studying anthropology. After stints teaching high school in California, preparing research papers at MIT and editing with the *Los Angeles Times*, Cordova decided to study physics and astronomy. With Gordon Garmire as her thesis adviser, she earned a PhD from Caltech in 1979. That year Cordova joined the Los Alamos National Laboratory as staff scientist in the Earth and space science division, where she remained for a decade. In 1989, Garmire, having moved to Penn State, offered her a faculty position at the university. Her husband, Christian Foster, is also at Penn State, where he runs a PhD program in cognitive science and education.

After 30 years with the Department of Energy and its two predecessors, the Atomic Energy Commission and the Energy Research and Development Administration, **Louis C. Ianniello** resigned abruptly from DOE on 21 September; he left the department on 30 September. Ianniello had been acting associate director of DOE's basic energy sciences program since 1986. During that time, President Bush's Energy Secretary, James D. Watkins, angered by design changes to the Superconducting Super Collider that he had not been led to expect and by the escalating cost estimates that resulted, appointed Ianniello DOE's acting program director for the SSC, with responsibility for keeping the project on track and on budget during the year 1989–90.

As head of basic energy sciences programs, Ianniello was effective in advancing major construction projects, particularly the 1–2-GeV Advanced Light Source at Lawrence Berkeley and the 6–7-GeV Advanced Photon Source now being built at Argonne. Though programs in basic energy sciences embrace solid-state physics and materials, plasma physics and chemistry, computer sciences, biosciences and geosciences, DOE funding requests in the past decade have barely kept pace with annual inflation rates, and Congress has frequently dipped into the division to pay for "pork barrel" projects favored by influential House and Senate members.

Ianniello has confided to friends that he was increasingly dismayed by DOE top management's apparent lack of concern with the program's plight. "I've been around Washington long enough to know that there are good years and bad years having nothing to do with logic or substance," he said in an interview. During DOE's ongoing preparation of the fiscal 1995 budget, which will be presented to Congress next February, Ianniello said he found that "actions were taken to the detriment of the basic energy sciences." At that point, he said, "I had enough."

He also expressed frustration that after some six years in the job he hadn't been given the full status of associate director. "And I wasn't given much hope of getting it," said Ianniello. What's more, he was increasingly unhappy about the number, style and scope of internal reviews and audits his programs were being subjected to—even though there had been no findings of inept or improper management and activities. "I no longer had good feelings about the job."

Ianniello received his PhD in physical metallurgy from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1960, while he was employed in metallurgical research at General Electric. Ianniello then worked at Argonne National Laboratory for nearly three years. In 1963 he was employed by the AEC, where he rose to chief of the metallurgy and ceramics branch and scientific coordinator for materials sciences. In the 1980s he served as director of DOE's materials sciences division before becoming acting director of basic energy sciences in 1986.

Upon Ianneillo's retirement from the Energy Department, one of his colleagues, who prefers anonymity, put it best: "Lou was a voice of logic and reason around here."

Mary Lowe Good, former senior vice president for technology at Allied-Signal Inc, was confirmed on 5 August as under secretary of Commerce for technology. Good is a veteran insider in the Washington science policy establishment. She headed the National Science Board from 1988 to 1991, and she was a member of the President's Council of Advisers for Science and Technology in the last year of the Bush Administration. Most recently she served on the blue-ribbon committee, led by MIT President Charles Vest, that examined several plans to redesign NASA's space station. Earlier this year, Good was frequently rumored to be a candidate for director of the National Science Foundation, a post she told an interviewer she had never been asked about nor sought for herself. Instead, she welcomed the chance to improve America's manufacturing technology in Commerce's number-three job. "It's something I feel good about doing," she said.

In her position Good oversees the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Technical Information Service. One of her main functions is to carry out the program articulated in the Clinton–Gore manifesto "Technology for America's Economic Growth: A New Direction to Build Economic Strength," issued in February. Good's chief function is to carry out the program's underlying strategy—that is, strengthen the nation's technology base through government–industry–academic partnerships of many kinds, encourage the introduction of advanced technology into small and medium-sized firms through extension services, and reduce the risks of private investments in new or more sophisticated technology. Though a Republican, Good says she joined the Clinton Democrats because "this is what I absolutely believe is worth doing for the good of the country."

Good, who describes herself as "a Texas gal," holds a PhD in chemistry from the University of Arkansas. She was a chemistry professor at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge for 26 years before joining Universal Oil Products, an affiliate of AlliedSignal, in 1980 as director of research. Subsequently she was named president and director of research of what is now known as the AlliedSignal Research and Technology Laboratory, and in 1986 she was made president of engineered materials research. In 1988 she was promoted again, to supervise all R&D within AlliedSignal.

—IRWIN GOODWIN ■