BASHED FOR OSTP'S GLACIAL PACE, GIBBONS GETS ALL FOUR ASSOCIATES

President Clinton's choice of John H. Gibbons on Christmas Eve as his science adviser and director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy was, as he said, "to get a jump start" before the inauguration. So when Gibbons moved into his office on 1 February he hoped to swiftly fill all four slots for OSTP's associate directors. He found to his chagrin that the appointments would come at a plodding pace. The White House, preoccupied with embarrassing episodes over Justice Department appointments and with acrimonious battles in Congress over the budget plan, shrugged off as trivial any criticism about neglecting to hire staffers for OSTP.

Meanwhile, *Washington Technology*, a biweekly tabloid, scolded the little agency in a page one story for being "unusually slow getting out of the starting blocks." The newspaper stated that OSTP was a source of "frustration" on Capitol Hill and in the business community. Championed by the Clinton Administration as the agency that would help transform science research into commercial technology, OSTP, the paper argued, "seems to have gone into hibernation." What's more, an insider newsletter, *Science and Government Report*, claimed that Washington science junkies were growing increasingly pessimistic about OSTP's avowed activities because the White House was slow in filling its vacancies.

Mindful of the long hours and weekends worked by those few at OSTP and of the recent suicide of Vincent Foster Jr, Clinton's overworked and apparently overwrought deputy White House counsel, White House managers acted. In the last few weeks, nominations came forth for three of the four jobs of associate director. The White House identified one associate director in January and, after he completed the gauntlet of FBI and political investigations and fulfilled the ethics requirements, the Senate confirmed him, though not until 5 August. This first slot was filled by Lionel Skipwith (Skip) Johns, a former Navy jet pilot with an undergraduate degree in financial management who helped secure the directorship of OTA for Gibbons in 1979. Even though he was named early in the Administration, Johns waited until 5 August for his Senate confirmation.

Johns joined OTA in 1975 after working in investment banking and in high-technology companies on the design, development and production of radar, sonar and communications equipment. In 1978 Johns became assistant director at OTA for the newly formed energy program. In this position he came to rely for advice on Gibbons, the first director of the Office of Energy Conservation in the Federal Energy Administration in 1973 and the founder of the Energy, Environment and Resource Center at the University of Tennessee. Soon after Johns joined OTA, its director, Russell Peterson, a former governor of Delaware, decided to resign. When OTA's advisory board. consisting of several members of each house of Congress, began looking for Peterson's successor, Johns seized the opportunity to put forward Gibbons's name.

Friendly associates

Johns and Gibbons have been close professionally and personally ever since. So it was not surprising that on coming to OSTP Gibbons immediately picked Johns to join him. Johns's title at OSTP is associate director for technology and space.

The spot of associate director for the environment went to Robert T. Watson, who had already moved to OSTP as a consultant from NASA, where he was director of the process studies program in the Earth science and applications division and chief scientist for Mission to Planet Earth. Watson received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Queen Mary College at London University in 1969 and his PhD in gas-phase chemical kinetics from London University in 1973. After postdoctoral research at the University of California, Berkeley, and at the University of Maryland, he worked as a research scientist from 1976 to 1987 at Caltech's Jet Propulsion Lab. His expertise is in organizing and conducting international assessments of ozone depletion and climate variation, which brought him to the attention of Vice President Al Gore.

On 9 August the White House announced that Clinton intended to nominate two women as associate directors: If confirmed by the Senate, Mary Rita Cooke Greenwood, a prominent nutritionist who is dean of graduate studies at the University of California, Davis, would take over all sciences, and Jane Wales, a former journalist (at *Congressional Quarterly* and *Democratic Review*) and arms control activist, would head international affairs and national security.

Greenwood, who is called "Marci" from the first letters of her three given names, was a biology professor at Vassar and directed several programs in nutrition and obesity at the college from 1977 to 1989. A graduate of Vassar, she earned her PhD in physiology, neuroscience and developmental biology from Rockefeller University in 1973 and worked as a postdoc at Columbia University the following year. The choice of Greenwood will not satisfy some scientists who were upset when Gibbons announced that he would combine the life sciences and physical sciences in the ambit of a single associate director. Under D. Allan Bromley, Gibbons's predecessor at OSTP, each had its own associate director. Greenwood has told reporters she knows she will need to mend fences with physical scientists and with social and behavioral scientists because of her own specialized background. "Marci is smart, pragmatic and very dynamic," says Charles E. Hess, who is professor of agriculture at the same university as Greenwood and served on National Research Council panels with her.

Wales runs a program on cooperative security at the Carnegie Corpora-

tion of New York, which gives $13 million in annual grants to individuals and organizations for contributions to nuclear nonproliferation and to improving East–West relations. In the 1980s she directed the Secure Society Program for the W. Alton Jones Foundation and served as national executive director of Physicians for Social Responsibility, the US affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, which won the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize. In 1987–88 Wales directed the International Security Options Project, which produced a set of recommendations on US nuclear weapons policy under the guidance of George F. Kennan and Robert S. McNamara, among others. During that period Wales assisted McNamara in researching and writing his book *Out of the Cold* (Simon and Schuster, 1989). She holds a degree in comparative literature from Sarah Lawrence College and studied afterward at the Sorbonne in Paris. Wales was a press spokesperson for Senator Walter Mondale in 1975–76 and for the Carter–Mondale transition team in 1976–77. She was coordinator of the White House public liaison office in the Carter Administration and served as deputy press secretary in the State Department in 1979–81.

To bring hard science into Wales's office, Gibbons has designated Frank von Hippel, a Princeton University physicist, to be assistant director for national security. The grandson of James Franck, the German physical chemist who won a Nobel Prize in 1925, von Hippel received a PhD in physics as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford. He then taught at Stanford and worked in high-energy physics at Argonne National Laboratory. He has been senior researcher at Princeton's Center for Energy and Environmental Studies since 1974. Von Hippel has attracted a following in arms control circles for his articles in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* and his activities with the Federation of American Scientists on nongovernmental efforts to stabilize East–West scientific relations. He served five years as chairman of FAS. An ardent proponent of a comprehensive test ban, von Hippel was a key figure in a May meeting with Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary and other government officials that led to the Administration's decision to extend the moratorium on underground nuclear tests. As an assistant director, von Hippel does not need Senate approval.

Abducting aides

Gibbons also has named two additional assistant directors: Henry C. Kelly, who ran a major project on Technology and the American Economic Transition at OTA for the past decade, is in Johns's policy domain, and Mark Schaefer, currently director of the Washington office of the Carnegie Commission on Science, Technology and Government, will work with Watson in environmental programs.

Kelly has a sound background for OSTP. After he got a PhD in physics from Harvard in 1971, Kelly joined the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, where he helped develop options for negotiating positions during the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. In 1975 he joined OTA and found himself in the newly formed energy program run by Johns. Kelly directed studies on small-scale solar energy devices, world oil supplies, international competitiveness of the US steel and electronics industries, and post-cold-war East–West technology transfer.

Upon receiving an undergraduate degree from the University of Washington in 1977, Schaefer joined the research and development office of the Environmental Protection Agency and later worked at EPA's Environmental Research Laboratory in Corvallis, Oregon. He received his PhD in neuroscience from Stanford University in 1987.

Gibbons is accused good-naturedly by friends on Capitol Hill of abducting a few of his OTA aides for OSTP. Besides Johns and Kelly, this group includes his executive assistant, Sue Bachtel, and his legal counsel, Holly Gwin. Gibbons's decision to move Gwin over to OTA is considered the smart thing to have done. She has been his speech writer and political confidant. She and her husband, what's more, are longtime friends of Gibbons and his wife. Gibbons also took along Katherine (Kitty) Gillman, a senior analyst for advanced technology and defense conversion programs for the past decade. Prior to that Gillman was on the staff of the Council on Environmental Quality, where she dealt with ocean and international environmental issues.

—IRWIN GOODWIN

AS SSC FACES 'LIVE OR DIE' VOTE, DOE'S O'LEARY SHAKES UP MANAGEMENT

It is not a good idea to place bets on whether the Superconducting Super Collider will win or lose when the Senate votes on its funding this month. The SSC lost the support of the House of Representatives on 24 June when its members voted 280 to 150 to scuttle the project (PHYSICS TODAY, August, page 43). Then on 6 August, two days after a sometimes acrimonious hearing by two key committees of the Senate that were supposed to be favorable to the SSC, the *Dallas Morning News* reported on page one that an informal poll revealed only 11 senators "are sure to support continuous funding for the project." The newspaper reported that 35 senators or their staffs indicated they would disapprove the SSC, while 29 were undecided, eight were leaning toward "yes," four thought they would vote "no" and the rest either would not respond or could not be reached. Another survey made by Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, an ardent proponent of the project, found that 30 of his Republican colleagues were prepared to support the SSC but that 25 senators from both political parties were opposed.

Both surveys portend that the $10 billion proton–proton collider will have a rough time when the energy and water appropriation bill (H.R. 2445) comes up in the Senate. Last year the Senate restored funding for the giant machine after the House voted against it. Even if the SSC survives the critical vote in the Senate it may face another peril if President Clinton makes additional budget cuts in October, as he promised to do in achieving support for his $496 billion budget reduction package.

The hearing on 4 August before two powerful Senate panels headed by J. Bennett Johnston of Louisiana revealed just how intense the reaction is to the SSC. Senator Ernest Hollings, the South Carolina Democrat who is chairman of the Commerce committee, scowled when he observed: "There comes a time for every political body to discern between the necessary and the desirable." Senator Dale Bumpers, a