

center as at least a partial "reward for their suffering." Now, he said, "it was all for nothing. We're pretty discouraged."

As for the \$65 million promised for the medical facility, the legislature decided that Texas should apply those millions to help pay for the \$500 million in revenue bonds that the state had issued to fund its share of the SSC. That may or may not happen. US Representative Joe Barton, a Republican from Texas, argues that if his state will not build the center, that money should be returned to the Federal government to help balance the US budget. Others believe that the agreement between Texas and DOE allows the funds to remain in Texas.

Shortly after the legislature's decisions, *The Dallas Morning News* observed in an editorial that "wishful thinking, politics and self-interest may have occasionally subverted a rational evaluation of proposals to reuse the collider's assets." Now one rumor floating through Texas has the state bulldozing the site this fall if no use can be found.

A little education

In a small footnote to the project, some Texas students may be the sole beneficiaries of the SSC. On 20 June DOE announced that it was donating about \$2 million worth of SSC assets to the newly formed Texas Science Education Collaborative. The donation consists mostly of furniture, office equipment and portable buildings to be used as mobile classrooms.

The collaborative, which has a planned three-year lifetime, is designed to improve science education in Texas. Poirot, who is the associate dean for research and professional development in the University of North Texas's College of Education and the project director of the university's Texas Center for Educational Technology, heads the effort. The center had originally proposed a program that would use tens of millions of dollars of SSC assets, including the computing facilities and space at the site. In January DOE informed Poirot that it would allocate up to \$2 million worth of noncomputer assets for a project, but only if the center could create a feasible plan and, said Poirot, "obtain an assured level of funding."

Twelve school districts, including Waxahachie's, each agreed to pay \$100 000 to become "stakeholders" in the collaborative. In a final irony, Representative Pitts said that Waxahachie might not be able to participate in the program. The school district is currently unable to fund its entry fee because of a dispute over

some "mitigation money" that Pitts believes Waxahachie is owed by DOE.

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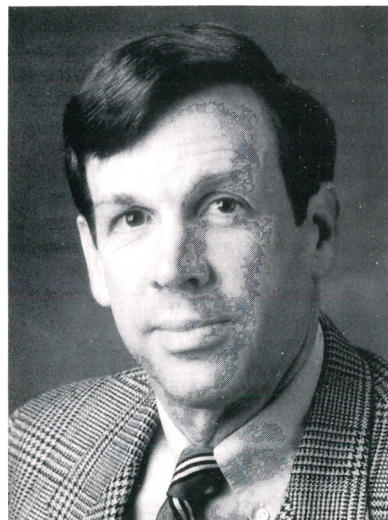
Tarter Takes Charge of Livermore in Uncertain Times

As director of one of the US's largest defense-research laboratories, C. Bruce Tarter now spends a large part of his time defending the lab itself. Tarter, who assumed full responsibilities for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory late last year, faces general post-cold-war priority shifts and a budget-cutting Republican Congress. He must also deal with specific recommendations from February's so-called Galvin report of DOE's entire laboratory complex (see PHYSICS TODAY, March, page 75) and from a later study by a task force headed by Daniel Yergin, which examined the energy R&D programs of the Department of Energy.

Tarter was named acting director in May 1994 after the resignation of John H. Nuckolls. Nuckolls was accused by some of continuing to be an old cold warrior after dramatic international changes had made such a stance politically untenable. Tarter seems more flexible. He sees imperfections in the operations of the national laboratories and touts Livermore's history as "innovative" while he attempts to juggle this era's more nebulous priorities for the laboratories. For example, Livermore recently advertised for a deputy director of science and technology with technical experience in "global ecology and biosciences" as well as "global security."

An astrophysicist by training, Tarter received his SB in physics from MIT in 1961 and his PhD in physics from Cornell in 1967. He then joined the theoretical division of Livermore, where his astrophysics research included studies of accretion-disk objects such as quasars and x-ray sources. Using his knowledge of radiative transport and non-local-thermodynamic-equilibrium processes, Tarter also worked in the lab's weapons and fusion programs. He rose through the Livermore hierarchy, becoming group leader, division leader, deputy associate director for physics, associate director for physics, associate director for physical sciences in March 1993 and finally deputy director in January 1994.

In a recent newsletter Tarter noted that Livermore's role has been "complicated" by the Galvin committee's recommendation that some of the lab's weapons work be transferred



BRUCE TARTER

to the "other design laboratory," that is, Los Alamos National Laboratory. Since the end of the cold war Livermore has seen its budget cut by about 12% and its staff reduced. The lab now employs about 7300 people and has an annual budget of about \$860 million. In addition to the weapons and other defense-related work, LLNL has programs in, for example, education, arms control, environmental restoration, basic science, projects with NASA and magnetic fusion.

In his newsletter piece Tarter assured employees that many people on the outside support a strong role for Livermore. But since significant changes may occur over the next several years anyway, Tarter is modifying internal practices to try to make the laboratory more competitive and resilient in responding to external impacts. These reforms, as he called them, include a "radical overhauling of business practices and major changes in the human resource area." Diversity is being emphasized, and if layoffs are required, a new policy will stress skills rather than seniority in deciding whom to keep.

Not surprisingly, Tarter spends much time communicating with those he identifies as laboratory constituencies: people in the Defense and Energy Departments, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, members of Congress and their staffs, and other policymakers. Such efforts may explain why Tarter can tell us that the laboratory will maintain a "long-term presence in national security." But, he added, "There is no public constituency for a return to 'the good old days.'"

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