

Miscellany

Education

Total college enrollments are up 7.6 percent over last year, according to the annual survey prepared by Raymond Walters, president of the University of Cincinnati, for the journal *School and Society*. The survey, covering 846 colleges and universities in the United States with a combined enrollment of almost 1.4 million full-time students and an over-all total of 1.9 million, reported that full-time enrollments increased 6.8 percent over 1953-54 and part-time enrollments exceeded last year's by 9.7 percent. Dr. Walters also found that enrollments in teacher's colleges have increased 19.4 percent and that the number of freshman engineering students is up 9 percent over last year. The University of California ranks first in full-time student enrollment with 35 273. In over-all enrollment New York University leads with more than thirty-nine thousand full- and part-time students.

At least eleven of the torrent of more than one thousand bills introduced during the opening moments of the 84th Congress call for emergency federal aid to the states and territories in the building of urgently needed school facilities. One such measure (S.5), submitted by Senator Lister Hill (D. Alabama) on behalf of himself and eighteen other members of the Senate, urges that a two-year, \$1 billion program of assistance to education be undertaken by the government. "This year," Senator Hill said in a supplementary statement, "enrollment again broke all records. We entered the school year lacking at least 370 000 classrooms to house the flood of students. We faced a net lack of about 135 000 new teachers. . . . The picture will grow blacker every year as the birthrate continues at record heights, as costs grow, and as teachers' salaries remain below adequate levels. . . . As of today, the Russians are outstripping us in engineering graduates, in scientific specialists, in the production of those skills essential to national strength and security. We dare not fall behind. We dare not neglect our elementary and secondary schools, where training of physicists, mathematicians, engineers, and other highly skilled and educated personnel must begin."

Increased enrollments in high schools, coupled with a decrease in the production of secondary school teachers, according to a report of the Ford Foundation's Fund for the Advancement of Education, are leading to a crisis in education in the years immediately ahead. An increase of "at least two-thirds" in the na-

tion's capacity for educating high school students is needed over the next ten to fifteen years, the report said, and there is a "staggering" need for increased facilities in the more rapidly growing communities. The Fund, which has spent almost \$26 million for improving formal education since its creation in 1951, reported further that the "annual output of elementary and high school teachers has dropped 26 percent since 1950 while enrollments in elementary and high schools have risen 24 percent and 10 percent respectively."

The Du Pont Company has established a fund of \$291 000 for grants to universities and colleges to help improve the teaching of science and mathematics. The fund, which is part of the Company's \$800 000 aid-to-education program for 1955-56, is earmarked largely for training in chemistry, but \$75 000 has been set aside for summer and winter fellowships for master's degree training to be awarded to high school science and mathematics teachers. The support for better teaching, according to an announcement by the Company, expands an activity which, until this year, was largely experimental. It was developed by Du Pont in recognition of a growing need for such assistance and was worked out in cooperation with educators throughout the nation. Another part of the larger program makes available 57 postgraduate fellowships (of which five are in physics) to 38 institutions for distribution as they see fit. The postgraduate fellowships in physics are at Duke University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ohio State University, University of Virginia, and Yale University.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology has announced the availability of a number of graduate and advanced research fellowships in electronics. Known as Industrial Fellowships in Electronics, they are sponsored jointly by a group of industrial organizations concerned with the advancement of electronics and its applications. Applicants for graduate student fellowships must satisfy the requirements for admission to the MIT graduate school. A few advanced research fellowships will be awarded to candidates possessing the PhD or its equivalent who wish to pursue advanced studies in electronics. The annual stipend is between \$1500 and \$2400 (including tuition fees) for the graduate fellowship and a minimum of \$3000 for the advanced research fellowship. Application should be made at least four months prior to the intended date of entrance. For further information write to J. B. Wiesner, Director, Research Laboratory of Electronics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts.

Atoms for Peace

Delegates from seven nations held their first meeting on January 17th to consider plans for the forthcoming international conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy called for under the terms of a resolution approved by the United Nations General Assembly in December. The resolution specified that the confer-