

GENERAL SCIENCE

# Science Bill Provisions

Third National Science Foundation measure provides that director and members be appointed by the President, confirmed by the Senate.

► HERE'S what the National Science Foundation will be like if both Congress and the President approve the identical S. 2385 and H.R. 6007 bills, a third try at enactment in three years:

There will be 24 members appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, who will serve for six-year terms.

A director, also a presidential appointee, is the most powerful person in the proposed setup, exercising powers of the proposed act within the general policies developed by the foundation. Last session President Truman vetoed the bill that provided the director should be elected by the foundation.

An executive committee consisting of the director and nine foundation members is charged with implementing the foundation policies.

The foundation would "develop and encourage the pursuit of a national policy for the promotion of basic research and education in the sciences." It is authorized to initiate and support basic scientific research in the mathematical, physical, medical, biological, engineering and other sciences by making grants, loans and other forms of assistance for the conduct of basic scientific research. It would appraise the impact of research upon industrial development and upon the general welfare.

Although a provision for a division of national defense, contained in last year's bill, has been eliminated, the foundation would initiate and support scientific research on national defense matters, after consultation with the Secretary of Defense.

Four divisions are specified, but the foundation may establish other divisions it finds necessary. Those specified in the bill are: Division of medical research, division of mathematical, physical and engineering sciences, division of biological sciences, division of scientific personnel and education.

The personnel and education division would handle the granting of scholarships and fellowships and would also be a central clearing house for information on scientific and technical personnel, maintaining a register of scientists and engineers.

Special commissions of 11 persons, five non-scientists and six scientists, are to be established to survey research in special fields and recommend over-all research programs. Three such special commissions on cancer, heart and intravascular diseases and poliomyelitis are specified in the bill, but the foundation may establish other special commissions from time to time.

Interchange of scientific information among scientists in the United States and foreign countries would be undertaken and through the Secretary of State arrangements could be made to aid research in foreign countries.

The foundation itself would not have authority to operate laboratories or pilot plants, but wide discretion is given by the bill to use appropriations for basic research work by organizations, government and private here and abroad, and individuals. Strengthening of research staffs of nonprofit organizations is specially mentioned. Any atomic energy research would be undertaken with the consent of the Atomic Energy Commission.

An interdepartmental committee of science criticized in the veto of last year's bill has been dropped.

Patent rights are left to the discretion of the foundation, as they were in last year's bill.

No money would be appropriated by the bill establishing the foundation, but organization would be possible immediately upon enactment of the legislation through transfer of funds from some governmental scientific or technical agency. The 1949 Presidential budget recommended \$20,000,000 for the first year of the foundation.

*Science News Letter, April 10, 1948*

GENERAL SCIENCE

## U. S. Aid Suggested for Postwar German Science

► "SEVERAL foes of democracy or advocates of revenge have regained prominent educational positions" in Germany, an atomic scientist has charged in an appeal for American aid to German science.

Dr. Samuel A. Goudsmit of the Brookhaven National Laboratory described the situation in German scientific circles as "deteriorating rapidly." Dr. Goudsmit is the author of *Alsos*, a book describing the Nazi atomic research program.

Writing in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* (April), he declared that U. S. foreign policy should include both moral and material support for postwar German science. He called on scientists in this country to urge government action in aiding scientific work in Germany.

Promotion of the exchange of scientific literature with Germany and grants and supplies for German research were suggested by Dr. Goudsmit.

He urged American scientists to take greater interest in the situation.

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