

## GENERAL SCIENCE

# Foundation Bill Passes

**Nominations for the governing board of the Science Foundation are being made. The director will be appointed by the President with approval of Senate.**

► **NOMINATIONS** for the 24-member Board that will govern the National Science Foundation are now being received by President Truman.

The recently passed legislation requests the President to give "due consideration" to recommendations for Board membership submitted to him by the National Academy of Sciences, the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities, the National Association of State Universities, the Association of American Colleges and by "other scientific or educational organizations."

Director of the Foundation will be appointed by the President, with the "advice and consent of the Senate." According to the law, however, his appointment shall not be made until the Board has had time to submit its recommendations for that post to the President. The Director of the Foundation will receive \$15,000 per year, and serve for six years. He is an ex-officio member of the Board.

Final authority to sign contracts as well as to grant scholarships and fellowships will remain with the Board. Although this makes administration of the act rather clumsy, it is not expected that it will be important during the first year of operation since it is doubtful if any contracts or student aid will be given out with the \$500,000 provided for the first year's budget.

The law authorizes the Board to set up an Executive Committee. Signing of contracts and granting of scholarships and fellowships remains vested in the Board, however. Committee members will serve for a two-year period. Board members serve for six years.

Congress must still pass the appropriation bill to make available the money authorized for actual operation of the Science Foundation.

The bill received bipartisan support in both houses. It was among the bills listed by President Truman as "must" legislation for this year. A previous bill was pocket vetoed by the President in 1947 because he objected to the administrative procedures it set up.

A federal science body to support basic scientific research was first proposed six years ago. Since 1946 it has been a part of President Truman's domestic postwar program and before Congress continually.

House and Senate conferees knocked out of the House-passed bill the controversial, extremely stringent loyalty provisions. The new bill calls for FBI clearance of persons doing work connected with atomic matters in the same manner as those working for the Atomic Energy Commission.

Likewise, scientists doing classified research for the Defense Department would come under that agency's security regulations.

Holders of fellowships and scholarships

would be required to file the normal loyalty affidavit and also sign the loyalty oath. The affidavit states that "... he does not believe in, and is not a member of and does not support any organization that believes in or teaches, the overthrow of the United States Government by force or violence or by any illegal or unconstitutional methods." The oath is: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America and will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States against all its enemies, foreign and domestic."

Science News Letter, May 6, 1950

## ENGINEERING

## Crewless Ship for Channel

► A COAST Guard lightship without a man aboard will be put into service off New York harbor this summer. One man at a remote control panel on Sandy Hook, N. J., will operate its light, radiobeacon and fog signal.

Named the EXP-99, the 91-foot, 215-ton vessel is now undergoing machinery tests at Curtis Bay, Md., just south of Baltimore. After a two-month trial, the crewless ship will be stationed near Scotland Light Ves-

sel, one of the three lightships now marking the sea approaches to New York.

Three diesel-powered generators will supply the electricity for the ship's powerful navigational aids. The operator on shore, by a flip of the finger, will be able to start, stop or shift generators through a radio signal.

With another button he can turn the fog signal on or off. The ship will carry two radio-beacon transmitters, shifting automat-



**NOT ONE MAN ABOARD**—Unique among the 37 manned lightships operated by the Coast Guard in U. S. shipping lanes will be Experimental Lightship 99, the lightship without a crew.