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his plans concerning science and technology within Commerce until his appointment is confirmed, but he is expected to continue efforts already underway to put today's industry on a better technological footing.

Finding the mechanisms by which known technology can be useful to industry on a sound economic basis is his first big project.

He believes that the civilian area is the logical arena for the expansion of scientific and technological efforts in the U.S., and will turn Commerce's scientific agencies even more sharply in that direction.

His appointment will come at a time when Commerce's science agencies are trying to live within budgets tightened by the Administration and screwed even tighter by Congress.

Anticipating the Spartan atmosphere in which he'll have to live, Dr. Sherwin commented last week, "It will be tough to operate when funds have been cut back from the requested level."

The Congress is likely to chop from the 1968 appropriations: \$1.75 million from a request for \$40 million by the Patent Office; \$19.4 million from ESSA's requested \$182.5 million; \$6.8 million for the university-based, industry Standards' requested \$39.3 million, and \$6.5 million out of a requested \$11 million for the university-based, industry-oriented research institutes of the State Technical Services program.

## Science Deferments

While graduate students wait out President Lyndon B. Johnson's announced intention to abolish post-graduate draft deferments, undergraduates can be sure of four uninterrupted years of college.

In action last week, the House of Representatives said what the Senate said not long before: undergraduate deferments should be continued.

But neither House of Congress had more than words of advice to the White House on the subject of graduate deferments. Graduate students, the House said simply, should be allowed to finish school. The Senate had been even less emphatic, suggesting deferments for medical and dental students be continued and that the President might have to consider the possibility of granting deferments to students in other critical areas of science.

The law under which doctors and dentists are deferred from military service while in school is separate from the Selective Service Act which applies to all others. Doctors and dentists automatically become draft-eligible when they finish school, regardless of age.

Senior scientists seem to be notably

opposed to drafting graduate science students. What is the point, they ask, of exempting medical and dental students, and then drafting the graduate science students who play an important role in teaching them?

In another development, the House last week gave in to pressure from the American Medical Association and Representative Durward G. Hall (R-Mo.), unsuccessful candidate for the AMA presidency, to end draft exemptions for doctors in the Public Health Service who have been assigned to other Federal agencies—notably the Food and Drug Administration and the Peace Corps. However, those working directly for PHS will be draft-exempt as always. FDA Commissioner James L. Goddard has been using young doctors, on loan from PHS, as a lever for upgrading FDA's scientific capability.

In a speech on the House floor, Representative L. H. Fountain (D-N.C.), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations that oversees FDA, argued that the amendment would "set FDA back considerably" by taking away the task force of young doctors who were clearing out the enormous backlog of work the agency faces on new drug applications.

The AMA has long charged FDA with impeding medical progress by delaying the passage of new drug applications through its evaluating channels.

The amendment to draft these PHS doctors was not part of the Senate's draft proposal. The issue of new draft regulations is expected to be settled soon when the House and Senate meet in conference to go over the proposed laws. Graduate students must still wait for a decision from the White House.

### FROM NEW ZEALAND

## Antarctic Station

New Zealand is to open a year-round scientific station in Antarctica similar but smaller than its station at Scott Base.

The station will be in the Dry Valley region of McMurdo Sound about 50 miles from Scott Base. The area is free of ice and snow in summer and little is known about the area in winter.

In summer scientists of many nationalities examine the geology and physics of the area. Physicists are interested in the excessive salt content of the lakes and the abnormally warm areas below their ice cover where 77 degree temperatures have been noted.

The only life in the valleys is microscopic, collecting around the shores of the lakes and streams from the snouts of glaciers. Since New Zealand's Antarctic research started 10 years ago, parties from Victoria University of Wellington have worked in the valleys during the summer.