

possibly scuttled, because of violent controversy over several side issues, most notably the construction of dams in the Grand Canyon (SN: 2/18) and California's insistence on a guarantee of at least 4.4 million acre-feet of Colorado water a year.

On the surface, imminent Senate approval of a bill introduced by Senator Carl Hayden (D-Ariz.) authorizing the project would seem to signal a successful effort by the Arizona delegation. But in the House, where there has been the most action in the past, there is this year a deep silence on the CAP legislation.

"Right now there isn't even a glimmering of hope that the House will start to move on this," admits an aide to CAP's chief proponent, Representative Morris K. Udall (D-Ariz.). Though earlier efforts died in the House, that chamber was once the scene of Udall's brightest hope.

The problem is that the contending forces in the Irrigation and Reclamation Subcommittee of the House Interior Committee have simply reached total impasse (SN: 4/1). Even if a bill entirely acceptable to all committee members could be assembled, it might not be reported out because of fears of some members that amendments on the House floor would destroy the provisions they fought to have included.

Among the factions are the Coloradans who feel the CAP shouldn't be authorized without inclusion of the revenue-producing Hualapai Dam in the lower Grand Canyon, conservationists who feel the dam would desecrate the Canyon while wasting water and money, and Californians who would insist on augmentation of the river's flow—by tapping river systems farther

north or by rainmaking—before authorizing additional withdrawals.

Tremendous pressure has also been brought to bear on Congress by such conservationist groups as the Sierra Club, a California-based organization that has done more than any other single group to stir public indignation over the projected dams in the Grand Canyon.

This year Administration support for the dams vanished with the alternate suggestion, incorporated in the Senate bill, that power needed for pumping could be generated just as well in a coal-burning power plant as in a hydroelectric dam.

All this has served mainly to stir up fears and frustrations. And, despite the once hopeful pronouncements of Representative Udall, there seems to be little feeling of desperate urgency on the CAP outside of the Arizona delegation.

So, while S 1004, Senator Hayden's CAP bill, seems destined for clear sailing in the Senate, that may be as far as the Central Arizona Project ever gets.

One outgrowth of the controversy that seems headed for full Congressional approval is establishment of a National Water Commission. The Senate has already passed S. 20, the National Water Commission Act, and House approval of a slightly amended bill is expected this week.

The Commission, to work for five years, is to survey the water resources of the nation and compare them with the needs. It would suggest ways—perhaps similar to CAP—in which available supplies could be conserved, as well as technological developments such as desalination to increase the nation's water supply.

ACCELERATORS

Civil Rights at Weston and Beyond

As the Atomic Energy Commission's \$2.6 billion fiscal 1968 authorization bill comes up for Senate approval when Congress reconvenes this week after its July 4 recess, one small corner of it is attracting the most attention.

This is the \$7.3 million item to start work on an ultrahigh energy accelerator in the Chicago suburb of Weston, Ill. The site for the 200-billion-electron-volt accelerator was chosen by the AEC as the best, scientifically and economically speaking, of six possible locations. But civil rights leaders complain that the area is outstanding in its lack of integrated housing and in the lack of enthusiasm on the part of local and state governments to push integration.

Senator John O. Pastore (D-R.I.),

chairman of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee, says it's the AEC's own fault the controversy has come up. The Commission said publicly, before choosing among the six sites, that it would take the question of civil rights and non-discrimination into account; then it set the issue aside.

Pastore's committee approved the Weston authorization over his head, and in the House the bill was passed after a bitter debate. But Pastore, who, with Senators Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) and George D. Aiken (R-Vt.), dissented to the authorization, has promised to bring the issue up again.

The principal item stressed by civil rights leaders is the fact that Illinois, unlike the five states where other possi-

ble sites are located—California, New York, Colorado, Michigan and Wisconsin—has no open housing legislation. The Illinois Senate added fat to the fire by refusing to pass a non-discrimination housing law just before the AEC bill was reported to Congress.

But to the opponents of the Weston site, this action was only the last straw. They point to complaints by AEC Chairman Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg that communities in the area had not come through with commitments to make housing available to all. Opponents wonder how the Commission will be able to influence localities once the decision to build the \$400 million facility there is made final.

The housing issue, once having been raised, is likely to come up in other Federal research projects as well—a thought that startles many Congressmen and adds to the emotion of the debate on Weston.

Although no one has brought it up, the Food and Drug Administration's plans for a new \$17 million laboratory might be affected by the issue. The proposal has been before Congress for two years, and each time either the House or the Senate turned it down, mostly on the issue of site location.

This year the House has appropriated money to start the project, on the proviso that it be located at least 50 miles from Washington. The FDA, which wanted the lab in the Washington suburb of Beltsville, Md., suggested as an alternative Madison, Wis., but House members thought that location would be too expensive. So the location is still up in the air.

PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

The STP Mystery

Serenity, tranquility and peace—that translation was given last week for the letters "STP." As it turns out, STP, the new mind-bending drug loosed in California, has meant anything but tranquility.

A dozen users wound up in the hospital with uncontrollable mania—intense excitement—lasting three days.

Investigators found themselves unable to pin down the nature of the drug, since its effects bore no relationship to its chemistry, as analyzed at the Food and Drug Administration.

In California, the drug acted as if it belonged to a class of synthetic compounds known as the anticholinergics. The mental and physical consequences of taking STP all pointed to an anticholinergic—such as the Army's secret nerve gas, BZ. They did not point to such plant-derived hallucinogens as LSD, marijuana or mescaline.

Yet at the FDA, STP samples—or what seemed to be samples—indicated a derivative of mescaline. The reports clearly did not match.

Moreover, STP reactions seemed to be confined to California. In New York, where the drug has been reported, Bellevue Hospital, for instance, saw no such reactions, though it usually gets the cases of drug-induced psychosis.

Drug pushers were probably selling more than one chemical, possibly as many as six, under the name of STP, which certainly contributed to the confusion.

Whatever its nature, STP use is dying out for now, says Dr. Frederick H. Meyers, a pharmacologist at the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco. No new STP supply has appeared since June, he says.

Dr. Meyers, who maintains contact with San Francisco hippies through a voluntary clinic in their Haight-Ashbury district, says users have become frightened of STP. Most have come to believe the experience is too rough, he says. Some have reportedly been seeking reassurance that their "acid" (LSD) is not STP.

The clinic is an informal medical center established in anticipation of the summer's hippie invasion. Except for a few cases in southern California, most of the STP reactions have turned up there.

In all the confusion, one thing seems fairly definite—California's STP is not the FDA's STP. Or if it is, there is some new and far more potent mescaline around.

"If you believe the FDA report, there must be more than one kind of STP," says Dr. Donald Louria, a Cornell University professor and well known drug expert.

Dr. Milton Joffe, of the FDA, agrees. The California intoxications must be coming from some other compound than the one he has, says Dr. Joffe.

He says he knows of no hospital cases the symptoms of which would correspond to the chemical analysis made on his version of STP, even though the basic mescaline molecule is somewhat modified in the samples he has.

"I wish we could come to some reasonable solution," says Dr. Joffe. "It makes us look pretty bad to say we don't know what this is."

Mescaline, a derivative of the peyote cactus, has been used by American Indians for centuries. It is now legal only as part of a ritual in the Indians' Native American Church.

If STP were the usual mescaline, it

would have produced anxiety and some perceptual distortion, but not the wild, long-lasting mania and physical side effects reported from California.

Altogether a dozen or more STP cases came to medical attention during the height of the fad. Physical effects included dry mouth, blurred vision, dilated pupils, and some pre-convulsive jerks. The patients were wildly excited and in some cases, violent. One STP user almost knifed another patient.

These are the symptoms of anticholinergics which act by blocking the parasympathetic nervous system. In sufficient amounts—and the margin of safety is relatively small—such a drug first sedates its user, then produces psychosis—including hallucinations, mania and terror—then convulsions and sometimes death. Death is usually caused by respiratory paralysis.

The only safe place for someone with anticholinergic poisoning is in a padded cell, says Dr. Joffe.

None of the California cases he saw was close to death, says Dr. Meyers. The main danger was that physicians would mistake an STP high for LSD and administer an antidote that would only make things worse. The drug chlorpromazine is often given to arrest psychotic reactions to LSD—hippies carry it around with them—but combined with an anticholinergic, the drug could be lethal.

The Army has reportedly developed an antidote to the anticholinergic drugs, but that substance is not readily available.

Besides the Army compound, BZ, the anticholinergic class includes an experimental drug called Ditrane, which never proved medically valuable. It was supposed to have been an anti-depressant. Dr. Meyers first thought of Ditrane when he encountered the new highs, he says. Since then he has become as confused as the FDA.

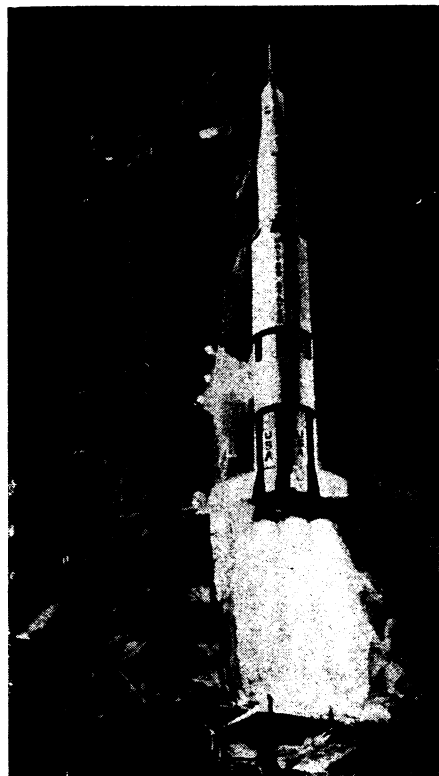
"Eventually we'll find out what this is," he says. But for the moment, the source of STP—an inhabitant of Haight-Ashbury—has disappeared. He hasn't been seen for days, says Dr. Meyers.

AFTER APOLLO

NASA: Walking Orders

"Walk, do not run," is likely to be the United States' motto for space exploration once it reaches the moon. Brought up short by the spacecraft fire that killed three astronauts on Jan. 27, the post-Apollo space program is already beginning to suffer as legislators slash the thin roots of seedling projects.

Soul-searching, redesigning and management-shuffling on both the Government and industry sides of the Apollo effort to put men on the moon (SN: 4/22) has apparently restored much of the confidence that was lost as one unpleasant truth after another was un-



NASA

With Apollo gone: 'Walk, Do Not Run'

covered by Apollo investigators. But though Apollo may ultimately be repaired, much broader damage has been done.

Every step into space after the moon will be longer than the one before, with development for many missions having to begin a decade or more in advance. It is here that Congress is tightening the reins.

The Senate cut not a penny from Apollo in passing its version of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's authorization for fiscal 1968, yet slashed almost one quarter of a billion dollars from the space agency's total request of \$5.1 billion. All the severe damage was done in the future plans department.

Every penny was knocked out of the Voyager program, for which NASA had asked \$71.5 million to begin an effort that could be expanded to include manned and unmanned spacecraft landing on both Mars and Venus, and possibly some of the outer planets. A bigger bite—\$120 million—came out of the Apollo Applications Program, a wide-ranging plan to use Apollo hardware for orbiting laboratories, observatories and other projects. NASA had