

illegitimate children. The ruling, handed down by Judge Perry G. Bowen in Maryland's Prince Georges County, opens the way to criminal prosecution of the mothers.

If further measures are needed, said the judge, he may in the future require unwed mothers—meaning those on welfare—to learn methods of birth control and practice them “at the risk of losing their children if they do not.”

Both moves seem to assume that birth control means are readily available and that the women are unwilling to use them.

But when Planned Parenthood looked into Prince Georges County's services this summer it found only three public health clinics dispensing birth control help in the entire county. Each was open three hours a week. “The clinics were so jammed they couldn't take appointments for three months,” says Jaffe.

A similar story could be found in many other cities and counties of the nation.

An estimated \$100 million would be needed to provide family planning services to the 5.3 million impoverished women, says Planned Parenthood. In June, the Office of Economic Opportunity, which now gives the largest Federal grants for family planning, set aside \$4.6 million for such services. The money will reach about 120,000 people. Next year OEO hopes to come up with \$10 million for this purpose.

The new Social Security legislation, which also includes the welfare freeze, earmarks \$15 million for family plan-

ning, but the legislation is not yet passed.

“Despite 32 Presidential exhortations, no Federal agency has yet formulated even a rudimentary plan to overcome this deficit or taken the initiative to seek the appropriations needed to carry out a plan,” charges Jaffe.

Jaffe estimates that perhaps 10 to 15 percent of the poor need intensive help and education in family planning, but “it's a poor conjecture because no one has gotten to that end of the caseload,” he says.

However a survey of Michigan welfare clinics indicates that something like five percent of the welfare clientele—less than one percent of the total poverty group—need such counseling. Most poor people, it seems, want birth control and would use it if they could get to it.

“It is disconcerting how rapidly the culture of poverty concept has been co-opted as the explanation for slow progress,” says Jaffe. “In effect, a health and welfare establishment which spent half a century claiming that insurmountable religious opposition prevented it from providing family planning to the poor, discovered, almost as soon as the religious controversy waned, that it is the culture of poverty which prevents the poor from adopting modern family planning.

“I have no quarrel with Jaffe's statistics or claims,” says Gary D. London, who heads family planning at OEO. The problem he says, has been that there are “lots of good causes and lots of priorities in public health.”

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

\$500 million budget breakthrough possible

The chances look good that this year the National Science Foundation budget will pass through what many have regarded as an unbreakable monetary barrier, the half billion dollar mark.

If the Senate-House conferees, scheduled to meet in early October, agree to the Senate's recommended figure of \$505 million, the NSF will actually have exactly what President Johnson recommended it should spend before next June 30—\$526 million. The extra \$21 million is money appropriated but never spent for Project Mohole, the ambitious plan to sample earth's mantle that was killed by Congress last year. (SN: 12/26/66).

Since the House recommended \$495 million for NSF expenditures (SN: 6/3), the compromise to be worked out in conference is likely to be at least half a billion, possibly more. For the past two years, National Science Foundation appropriations had been held at the

same level, \$479,999,000.

One factor entering the Senate's approval of the \$505 million figure was the requirement that the NSF submit, for consideration with next year's budget, “a report surveying all significant efforts in pure science, private and public.” The report was called for “in view of the proliferation of basic research in pure science conducted by private industry as well as the Government.”

The Senate action authorizing \$505 million overruled its Appropriations Committee's recommendation to cut NSF funds back to \$459 million. The increased \$46 million would be spent as follows:

- Support of basic research: \$19 million, including roughly \$4 million for increased support of social science research. The four areas of emphasis for this \$19 million are social science, oceanography, atmospheric sciences and chemistry.

- Science education and institutional development programs, part of the national Centers of Excellence plan—an effort to create more such centers in more parts of the country: approximately \$18 million.

- Sea grant college program: \$3 million, plus \$1 million added to the 1967 fiscal year budget, bringing the total to \$4 million.

- Science information programs: \$4 million, for development of national information retrieval systems using computers.

- Other small programs will make up the difference.

The program for institutional development, if the Senate's version is agreed to in conference, would have a total of \$52 million in newly appropriated funds, plus \$16.4 million carried over from fiscal 1967. ♦

MARIJUANA

Confusion over effects

The already-heated marijuana issue gained several degrees last week with new reports of adverse reactions to the drug and a court trial that challenges the criminal laws now surrounding marijuana.

Both the reports and the trial serve to illustrate the basic marijuana situation: Medical opinion is split a dozen ways over the relative dangers of the drug and solid evidence is not available.

In a Boston courtroom, the medical authorities spoke as though they had two different drugs in mind, depending on whether they testified for the defense or the prosecution. Some claimed marijuana does not cause mental illness and is no more dangerous than alcohol. Others said chronic marijuana smoking produces distinct and harmful effect on personality, including anxiety, loss of drive and sometimes, psychotic changes.

At stake in Boston is the constitutionality of laws that lump marijuana with narcotics like heroin and impose harsh criminal penalties for its possession. Chemically, marijuana is classified as a mild hallucinogen, not a narcotic. Also at stake is the fate of two Philadelphia men arrested last March at Boston's Logan International Airport when they claimed a footlocker containing marijuana.

The same contradictions were evident in new medical reports on marijuana.

In its Sept. 22 issue, The Medical Letter, an independent, professional newsletter published in New York, claimed that reports of serious adverse reactions to marijuana are increasing. “Panic, gross confusion, impulsive and