

Schultze: No money after the war.

league Joseph Pechman believes that Congress can be persuaded to maintain present tax levels and keep the money for civilian uses.

If this kitty survives, some of the money may come to basic research, but observers in and out of the Government see no pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. The 15 percent annual growth rate that some regard as a kind of magic number for science is not likely to be restored.

Observers tend to agree that a kind of plateau has been reached—a point from which future policies need to be reassessed.

“Science and technology, research and development,” says Dr. Hornig in this context, “have changed from being the frosting on the cake of defense expenditures, health expenditures and so



Pechman: Money could be available.

on to being a significant national expenditure which must compete with other claimants on national resources.”

“The thing we . . . have to fear,” says Dr. Frederick Seitz, president of the National Academy of Sciences who resigned to become president of Rockefeller University, “is that the public . . . will take the view that it will support basic science only through the National Science Foundation at some more-or-less fixed budget. . . .”

A number of observers see much hope for the future in the growing

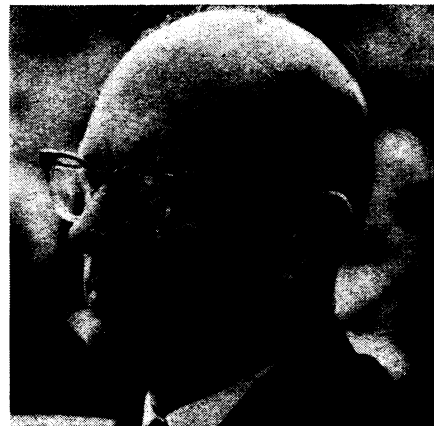
trend toward institutional grants for the development and maintenance of centers of higher education, rather than giving money to individual scientists for research projects. They feel that support of basic science as part of a general commitment to higher education is both a most fitting way of obtaining the support and most agreeable to Congress and the public.

That this is an attractive way of appropriating the money seems to be borne out by the action of Representative George P. Miller (D-Calif.) who, in spite of this year’s bad fiscal climate, had introduced a bill asking for \$150 million a year in additional institutional grants in science and technology (SN: 6/22, p. 591).



Hornig: Basic science is accepted.

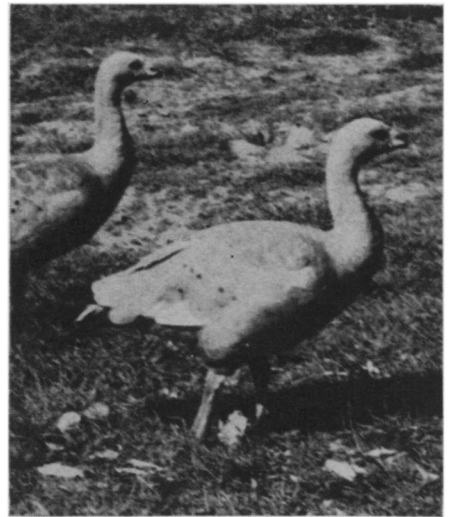
But if the basic sciences are to get a good share of any money that is around, many commentators, including Drs. Hornig and Seitz, agree that the scientists have to improve their efforts to acquaint the general public with the meaning of and justification for basic science. As Prof. Victor Weisskopf of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology puts it: “They try to explain su3 symmetries (a theory of high energy physics) to newspaper reporters instead of telling them what the whole thing is about. They themselves cannot see the forest for the trees.”



Seitz: Fears a fixed budget.

CONSERVATION

Help for the Cape Barren goose



Australian News Bureau

Among the world’s rare birds are the Cape Barren geese that inhabit the island groups along Australia’s south coast. First discovered in 1797 by surgeon George Bass on the islands north of Tasmania in the strait that now bears his name, the birds were then a flourishing population. There are indications, in fact—fossil remains found in New Zealand and the similarities to the Sheld geese of southern South America—that the geese’s early ancestors were once widespread throughout the southern hemisphere.

Now there are fewer than 4,000. Settlers took an early toll, and hunters and graziers (whose pastures the geese seek out) have kept the pressure on. The largest remaining stronghold of the geese is still the Bass Strait islands, where there are now 2,500; there are that many only because of an emergency law passed by Tasmania in 1960, when the population had dropped to scarcely 1,000.

On the Wilson’s Promontory islands, on the mainland side of the strait, there are no more than 200 of the birds remaining. Along Spencer Gulf, some 600 miles eastward, there are perhaps 1,000, and in the Recherche Archipelago, where once the geese lived in abundance, the last count showed 81.

Now the Australian Conservation Foundation wants a two-stage program of conservation and management, including sanctuaries in all of the four main island groups. It would also like to see stock removed from some of the less profitable islands, and pastures established exclusively for the geese, both on other islands and on the Australian mainland to which the birds make occasional forays.