

## The new science adviser

Nixon's choice of DuBridge  
maintains links to  
World War II establishment



UPI

DuBridge and Nixon: "get the best scientific information and present it."

The Sunday before Lee A. DuBridge accepted the job of science adviser to President-elect Richard M. Nixon he patched the roof of his cottage at Santa Barbara, Calif.

The 67-year-old retiring president of the California Institute of Technology for years has used outdoor work to shake the cobwebs loose.

Even during World War II, when he was director and principal architect of the Radiation Laboratory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where the wartime radar work was done, he and a group of scientists would spend their rationed gas on caravans to Ipswich, Mass., for a day at the beach.

**Scientists** say of him and the appointment, formally announced in New York last week:

- "He's spry. Don't be mistaken about his age," says friend and longtime associate, Dr. Leland Haworth, director of the National Science Foundation. "He's a vigorous man."

- "If all Nixon's appointments are that good, we'll be lucky," says Dr. Jerome Wiesner, science adviser to President Kennedy, now provost of MIT. "Everything he (Dr. DuBridge) has touched he has had a good influence on."

- "It's not what he will bring to the job personally," says Dr. Donald F. Hornig, science adviser to President Johnson. "but that he can make available to the President the best the country has got. . . . The most important thing about DuBridge is that he is highly respected in the scientific community."

That in fact, is the way DuBridge

sees the role of science adviser. "I will not be his (Nixon's) political adviser nor economic adviser," he said in New York last week, "but will try to get the best scientific information in the country and present it to him."

Dr. Hornig, while not presuming "to write the agenda for the new Administration," admits to being "staggered by the number of things DuBridge is going to walk into." They range from national security and disarmament to the application of science to social and urban problems. The latter Hornig regards as "virgin territory . . . a whole new no man's land, which I would regard as paramount if I were here."

The relationship of the university to the urban environment has been a major DuBridge concern in recent years. At Cal Tech, he has been what a public university official calls "a very good friend of public education," and not wary of getting involved in the tangled skeins of California politics where university strength was involved.

But his key concerns lately appear to have been the search for ways to increase the usefulness of universities in relation to urban problems (SN: 11/30, p. 539), without having them lose their appropriate intellectual and academic purpose in the morass of administration and political problems involved in the operation of social programs.

**Even moderate** critics apparently aren't too displeased with the appointee, to go by the reaction of Washington physicist Dr. Ralph Lapp.

Dr. Lapp calls DuBridge "a solid citizen, but definitely of the establishment . . . a good compromise between

the (liberal) Boston bunch and the (conservative) California crowd" who have been pulling and hauling over science policy since the Robert Oppenheimer security case split the scientific community in the 1950's. (DuBridge, who favored the testing of thermonuclear weapons against the test ban advocates and inclines hawkish on Vietnam, supported Dr. Oppenheimer during the 1954 hearings and has held fast against classified research on the university campus proper.)

But DuBridge, says Dr. Lapp, "will find it hard to represent the creative aspects of science today." Lapp would have preferred a life scientist, or even a nonscientist, in what in the past has often been a political role.

DuBridge, a physicist by training, has not been a working scientist since he took the wartime Radiation Laboratory directorship. He is seen by California associates as representing a departure in the post of science adviser; he has spent the greater part of his professional life as an administrator.

**And that**, in views as ordinarily widely divergent as Hornig's and Lapp's, may be what the White House's Office of Science and Technology, which DuBridge will head, needs most.

DuBridge has been out of the mainstream of Washington science policy since his stint as vice chairman of the National Science Board, policy body of the National Science Foundation, in the 1950's.

"It's not that he's been on the outs," says Dr. Hornig. "I can't recall having asked him to do anything formally, but he's been of a lot of assistance infor-

mally, over the long-distance phone."

The problem has been that DuBridge, president of Cal Tech since 1946, has been most concerned in recent years with the strength of universities generally and of university research more specifically.

"The only reason he wasn't more deeply involved is because I didn't want to ask a university president to speak in his own cause," says Hornig.

In California, DuBridge has used Cal Tech's management of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and other major contracting installations as a way to strengthen the university's science programs. He has tended to restrict Cal Tech's classified research to them. He was an advocate of civilian control of

the space program in 1958, and still believes the space effort is important principally for the scientific contributions it can make.

He has been an advocate of the centers of excellence program, by which Federal agencies have attempted to establish new first-rate centers of university science by adding a modicum of support to already good centers. But in a pinch, such as the one currently being felt in all university laboratories, his longstanding predilection for supporting the best research first could shape policy in the next few years.

"He believes," says Dr. Haworth, "that the progress of science is determined by what the real leaders do, and in their having adequate support." ◇

## FRANCE

### Austerity and research

Although it is still too soon to tell just how damaging the combined effect of university reorganization and severe fiscal austerity will prove to be on French science, clearly there is going to be considerable turmoil in French research until the franc crisis is resolved.

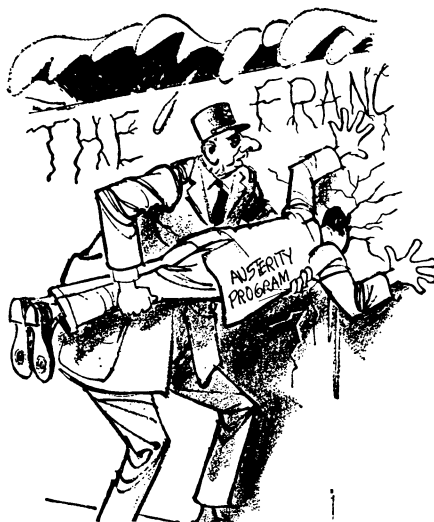
While no significant decrease in Government science spending had been ordered, a rigid limitation on the utilization of already allocated funds is expected.

President DeGaulle's refusal to devalue the franc carried with it the threat of real cutbacks in both the military and civil sectors of French scientific research. The force de frappe, DeGaulle's nuclear missile program, will be curtailed, but no official Government statement regarding nonmilitary research expenditures has been made.

Nonmilitary scientific research is another field of combat in DeGaulle's resistance of the American technological invasion. The universities themselves, already under pressure from the two higher education unions (one for instructional staff, the other for researchers), and obliged to comply with the university reform law by integrating students from all disciplines, now will have to carry on with less money.

University reform, stimulated by the student upheavals of last May, was pushed through the French National Assembly by the DeGaulle majority with wide liberal support. It has been called the most sweeping educational revolution since the present system was set up under Napoleon.

In effect, it takes away the autocratic power which the Minister of Education held over most French universities and gives control of budget, faculty and curriculum to local university councils elected by faculty and students.



Gene Basset

In research laboratories the most important effect will be in the purchase and leasing of major equipment. There will be more vigorous competition for the funds still available.

The French left has already called the impending reduction in these areas the latest in the series of Gaullist contradictions proving the need for changes more fundamental than the university reform and the quickly neutralized salary increases of last summer.

Individual researchers and investigators are aware that if funds are blocked or parsimoniously distributed, successful candidates for the 400 new research posts scheduled to begin in 1969 might find their starting dates postponed or their jobs canceled. Already there are frequent trips by highly trained and experienced scientific workers seeking work in Paris laboratories. At least one director of research at a Government center foresees a good amount of intellectual unemployment in 1969.

## BROOKINGS STUDY

### Nixon's choices

"What we do in the next 10 years will depend on our will, not our ability. . . . The United States adds the equivalent of a West Germany to its economic base every five years. . . . We can use our growth the way we want to use it. There will be no excuse in an economic sense for failing to attack social problems."

In these words, Charles L. Schultze, former director of the U.S. Bureau of the Budget, draws out the implications of an Agenda for the Nation, published by the Brookings Institution as a guide to the coming Administration.

Full of facts, figures, projections and estimates by 18 authors, the book describes the choices before the nation on domestic and foreign issues. Those choices, as Schultze and other Brookings economists make clear, are not economic but political and philosophical.

Economic policy can adjust the economy to the choice we make, says Schultze. Within limits, it can give as little or as much as the nation wants in public money without risking inflation or recession.

The overriding choice, however, and the one that will shape the 1970's, deals with post-Vietnam military spending. The Brookings authors point out that a decision in favor of full-scale expansion of the antiballistic missile system, combined with new offensive weapons, would eat up most of the revenue growth the Government can expect from future economic expansion. Schultze estimates that this increase in new, uncommitted revenue—which will not be available before 1974—will amount to about \$35 billion to \$40 billion, assuming a Vietnam ceasefire. Dr. Schultze does not expect much money to become available in the first few years following a ceasefire (SN: 7/20, p. 57).

"You can do a lot with \$40 billion," says Schultze, but the potential claims on this money exceed its sum.

"The combination of a full ABM system with the possible attempt to gain nuclear superiority can bring back the whole balance of terror and determine the shape of the 1970's," he says. "This is the single most important critical decision."

The Brookings publication hints at the scope and magnitude of social issues and the kind of money needed to attack the so-called urban problem. While there has been a good deal of debate over specific programs such as Model Cities and the poverty war, the entire picture has never been laid out.