

## Finding non-Defense money

Scientists who get money from the Department of Defense have seen the handwriting on the wall for a few years. This year the message was especially bad. The script was written by Sen. Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.), majority leader of the Senate, who topped off a billion-dollar cut in Defense's requested \$8 billion research and development budget for fiscal year 1970 with a prohibition amendment. Now famous as article 203, the amendment forbids the department to spend any of the appropriated money on research projects not related to its mission (SN: 12/13, p. 550).

Article 203 is the culmination of several years of Congressional grumbling about Defense's alleged tendency to build a research empire for itself in areas where Congressmen thought it had no business to be. "It was the only agency that could always get more for research than it asked for," says an official of the Democratic Policy Committee. For several years Mansfield and others have been trying to change this favored status.

**The problem** with article 203 is that it neither defines the Defense Department's mission nor names any categories of research that are in or out. It is open to wide interpretation and raises the need for an arbiter.

Defense had hopes that the National Academy of Sciences would be the arbiter and had invited the Academy to join in a review of Defense research efforts to see what ones violate article 203. But the Academy tossed the potato right back. "The Academy is ready to give advice," says a spokesman, "but we feel it would be sensible for the Defense Department to take a first stab at the situation."

The department is proceeding to re-view its research programs. It is still too early to tell what categories may go or to name specific projects that may be discontinued, but it is clear that with the budget cut and amendment 203 something will have to go. The department has been negotiating with other Government agencies to see if they can take up the slack.

Some of these talks have been going on since the Defense Department began to have Congressional trouble. Defense has been talking to the State Department for a year and a half about the possibility of State's taking over some of Defense's projects in the social sciences. Nothing solid has come of the talks, says Dr. Donald M. MacArthur, deputy director of Defense Research and Engineering. There is speculation that people at State are reluctant to get

involved in basic social-science research of the sort the Pentagon is doing.

In physical sciences the alternative for many will be the National Science Foundation. The Science Foundation's policy is that anyone dropped by the Defense Department will have to go through the same procedures of application and evaluation as anyone else on the NSF lists. People who have been supported by Defense are already getting in line. "There are dozens or a hundred or more," says Dr. Paul F. Donovan, director of NSF's intermediate energy physics program, and implementation of article 203 has not yet been carried out. When that happens, there may be a further substantial increase, he says.

This sort of thing could lead to a severe money problem at the Science Foundation and other agencies unless additional money is made available to them. It was not Mansfield's intention to provoke such a crisis, says a spokesman for the Democratic Policy Committee, but rather to relieve Defense of research projects in favor of other agencies. The committee suggests the possibility of transferring money from Defense to other agencies.

According to Budget Bureau opinion, however, such transfer of funds appropriated for fiscal 1970 seems impossible. One Federal agency can give money to another, but only if the receiving agency does some work on behalf of the giving agency as part of the giving agency's activities. Since the Mansfield amendment forbids using the Defense appropriation for research unrelated to Defense's mission, it seems to forbid such subcontracting by definition.

**The alternative** of putting supplemental appropriation bills through Congress remains, but is unlikely to be used since the 1971 budget is almost ready for presentation. There is the chance that adjustments are likely to be made in the 1971 budget, which takes effect next July, instead of further tinkering with this year's budget.

Unless something is done, interpretation of article 203 could bring dire consequences to the nation's research establishment. At the University of Illinois, for example, over half the outside support for research in the Engineering College comes from the Defense Department, says Dr. Daniel Alpert, dean of the college. About one-third of the work in the university's Materials Research Laboratory is basic enough to be subject to different interpretations under the Mansfield amendment. The university will contend that

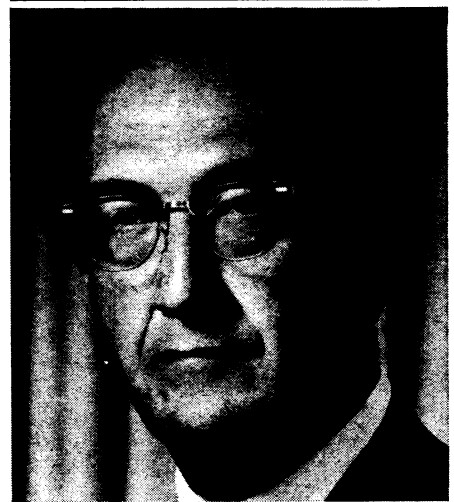
the research is relevant to Defense's mission, but, says Dean Alpert, "We've got to hold our breath and hope for the best."

If Defense Department support is cut immediately, says Dr. Charles Schwartz, associate professor of physics at the University of California at Berkeley, a bitter situation of competition for available funds will develop.

Dr. Schwartz feels that the Mansfield amendment is a good thing even though he has an Air Force contract he may lose as a result of it. He feels scientific leaders should start to work with Congress to provide alternate means of support for the day when the impact of article 203 reaches the laboratories. □

## HEW POLICY

### Blacklists and loyalty oaths



MIT

*Nobel laureate Luria: Victim of blacklist.*

The security procedures followed by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in appointing its advisers and consultants "are supported by a logic all their own," says H. Reed Ellis of Columbia University. "This is to say that no reasonable man would design the present system as it has evolved," the Harvard law graduate declared in a special report to HEW Secretary Robert H. Finch last week.

**The system** which has been under heavy fire from the scientific community applies particularly to scientists advising the National Institutes of Health on the distribution of research funds and design of programs. Candidates for these positions have been subjected, without their official knowledge, to preappointment security checks. The result was the blacklisting of individuals who failed to receive clearance, often because of left-wing political ties or association with others holding radical views.

Until December, HEW denied the ex-