

istence of such lists which, it now concedes, do exist. Even Nobel laureate Salvador Luria of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (SN: 10/25, p. 371) was barred from NIH service. Says Ellis, who denies knowledge of the specific reasons for Luria's rejection, "The whole operation takes on a Kafkaesque aura in the public mind when Nobel laureates are excluded from Government service for whatever reason."

Finch has now issued orders to revise the controversial system and eliminate blacklisting.

The present practice of preappointment investigations will be discontinued, and individuals will be appointed on the basis of "professional competence, that is, integrity, judgment and ability." The only ground for denying an appointment will be that a candidate "possesses traits that would so adversely affect the performance of his job as to disqualify him." Such traits might include alcoholism or drug addiction. An important addition to the provisions, says Ellis, is that if such a charge is made against a person, he now will have a right to confront and refute the evidence.

Another condition of appointment, initially announced by Finch but actually subject to further consideration, is that accepted candidates sign a loyalty oath. Prior to September, every Federal employe was required to sign an appointment affidavit that contained a section beginning, "I am not a Communist or a Fascist," and affirming that he did not advocate the overthrow of the Government or belong to any organization that does, ranging from the Abraham Lincoln Brigade to the Yugoslav Seaman's Club, Inc.

But last summer a District of Columbia court ruled that section unconstitutional, and the Civil Service Commission, which administers the affidavit, declined to challenge the ruling in the Supreme Court. While it remains on current forms, anyone who objects to it may strike the section before signing. It will be deleted from future affidavit papers.

To satisfy proponents of loyalty review, Ellis proposed and Finch announced a new loyalty affidavit, worded to be constitutionally acceptable. But that, too, is likely to be stricken before it ever goes into effect.

According to Phillips Rockefeller, assistant to Secretary Finch, the Ellis affidavit would apply only to HEW appointments. But because the Civil Service Commission has not indicated any intention of rewriting a loyalty affidavit for Government-wide use, HEW is unlikely to move unilaterally to introduce a version of its own.

CONGRESSIONAL DEMAND

More bioscience needed

Last November, the House Subcommittee on Space Science and Applications heard 13 witnesses testify on the state of bioscience in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (SN: 12/13, p. 560). Much that the Congressmen heard related to the early termination of the flight of Biosatellite 3 and the death of Bonnie, the space monkey, who survived only 9 of a planned 28 days of weightlessness.

After reviewing the testimony, the subcommittee, headed by Rep. Joseph E. Karth (D-Minn.), has issued its report, calling on NASA to pay more attention to bioscience.

"The question is," says Karth, "where do we go from here? Nothing more is scheduled in the way of flight tests of the biological effects of weightlessness in space, except the remaining Apollo and post-Apollo manned space flights. Is it our intention to use man as our test animal in the planned long-duration voyages to the moon and the planets? . . . Or should we try first to

learn more . . . by further exploration with monkeys or other animals?"

Specifically, the subcommittee recommends that:

- The abandoned biosatellite program be reinstated.

- Bioscience research be extended to the planets when it becomes technologically feasible.

- The role of science—particularly biomedicine—be upgraded as a mission objective to help justify the substantial cost of space exploration.

- The recommendations of the President's Science Advisory Committee for a "new level of biomedical research capability" be implemented by NASA.

- The Office of Manned Space Flight, on the upcoming 28-day Apollo Applications Program missions (SN: 1/3, p. 21), conduct a new and higher level of biomedical experimentation on the astronauts.

- NASA cooperate closely with academic research institutions in planning its scientific investigations.

HUNGER WAR

Second try on a conference

"The hunger of even one American can no longer be excused by anyone, for any reason," President Nixon was told last month by the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health. But the conference, organized at the President's request by Harvard nutrition professor, Dr. Jean Mayer, came to a stormy end.

The three-day conference rapidly galvanized around a strong, almost universal sentiment that the President take drastic measures to tackle the hunger problem before the end of the conference. Even conservative panel chairmen, some of them heads of food corporations, asked the President to act immediately, and minority groups demanded a national emergency policy. Mayer, himself, to stress the urgency of the problem, pressed other groups to demand that a guaranteed annual income of \$5,500 be established, and the figure was picked up by 10 of the 17 separate panels recommending an annual guarantee.

The Administration's own Family Assistance Plan, designed for the President by White House adviser Daniel Patrick Moynihan (SN: 3/8, p. 232) proposes a guaranteed income of \$1,600 for a family of four, which would cost the Government \$70 billion a year, he says.

The two views were never reconciled, and the meeting ended in an atmos-

phere of confusion.

A second start may have begun last week when Mayer released a 645-page final report of the conference, including over 800 recommendations by 26 separate subject panels and 8 task forces.

In addition to emphasizing a \$5,500 income floor, the report proposes that a national free lunch and breakfast program be made available immediately to all children through secondary school, regardless of income. Because the responsibility here is divided among Federal agencies, the report recommends that all responsibilities for such programs be shifted from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

NEWSBRIEFS

New legislation; Born

Despite misgivings about one of its provisions, President Nixon last week signed the Coal Mine Health and Safety Bill of 1969. The act includes Federal compensation for pneumoconiosis, a disease, caused by inhalation of coal dust (SN: 12/29, p. 592).

The bill, in addition to compensation, deals with accidents and occurrence of the disease by limiting coal dust to three milligrams per cubic meter, six months after it becomes law. Hereto-

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fore, the United States has been the only major coal-producing nation in the world without an official industry-wide Government standard for coal mine dust. Mr. Nixon had opposed workmen's compensation provisions because of high cost, and there was speculation that he might veto the bill. □

President Nixon also signed the omnibus tax bill, which establishes a five-year amortization plan for industry investing in antipollution equipment (SN: 12/27, p. 589). The final bill permits the amortization deduction for pollution control facilities added to plants that were in operation on Dec. 31, 1968, as long as the new control equipment is placed in service before the termination date of the provision, Jan. 1, 1975. □

An independent advisory council to help develop national environmental priorities and goals was established by law last week.

The three-man council, outlined by the National Environmental Policy Act is modeled on the influential Council of Economic Advisers. If it carries as much weight, it could bear heavily on the activities of 13 or more Federal agencies now involved in environmental policymaking, to insure that they carry out environmental-related mandates.

The President says the act will be a major theme of the State of the Union Address to Congress, scheduled Jan. 22.

Specifically, the act involves a Congressional declaration that the Government will establish priorities and national goals for environmental quality. Besides establishing the Council of Environmental Quality, it orders the council to establish a system for monitoring environmental indicators and maintaining records on the status of the environment. □

A Nobel laureate renowned for his contribution to the theory of atomic and subatomic physics, Dr. Max Born, died in Goettingen, West Germany, on Jan. 5. He was 87 years old.

During the 1920's Dr. Born was a professor at the University of Goettingen and took a large part in the mathematical formulation of quantum mechanics, the theoretical description of atomic and subatomic processes. For this work he received the 1954 Nobel Prize in Physics with Dr. Walter Bothe, who had also done research in atomic physics.

In 1933 Dr. Born was dismissed from his post for racial reasons and emigrated to Great Britain, where he taught at Cambridge and Edinburgh Universities. Although he had become a British citizen in 1939, he returned to Germany after retiring in 1953. □

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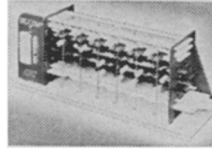
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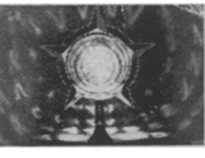
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