

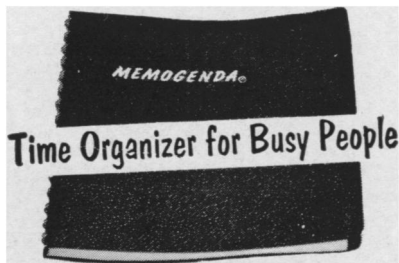
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SCIENCE NEWSBRIEFS

Apollo 14

In the wake of the abort of the Apollo 13 moon mission, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration postponed the flight of Apollo 14 from October to December at the earliest. A review of the accident that caused the abort resulted in recommendations that seemed likely to delay it even further (SN: 6/13, p. 571).

This week NASA Administrator Thomas O. Paine told the Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences that Apollo 14 would fly no earlier than Jan. 31, 1971. □

No oxygen drop

Scientists have been concerned that the burning of fossil fuels, combined with possible harm to oxygen-producing phytoplankton in the oceans by pesticides, might result in a serious depletion of the atmosphere's oxygen.

Dr. Lester Machta of the Environmental Science Services Administration and Ernest Hughes of the National Bureau of Standards last week announced the results of a series of tests of oxygen levels in the atmosphere.

Their conclusion: There has been no measurable decline in oxygen since readings—regarded as reliable—were taken in 1910. The 1910 readings show oxygen to be 20.946 percent of the atmosphere by volume, as do the Machta-Hughes 1970 measurements. □

Seaborg renominated

Chairman Glenn T. Seaborg of the Atomic Energy Commission, whose current term expires this week, has been renominated by President Nixon. Dr. Seaborg says he will accept the renomination. The usual length of such a term is five years, but Dr. Seaborg will not say how long he will stay. In 1968 he accepted for two years only. □

Hill-Burton veto overridden

Both houses of Congress have voted to override President Nixon's veto of the Hill-Burton Act providing Federal funds for construction of hospitals and other medical facilities (SN: 6/27, p. 615).

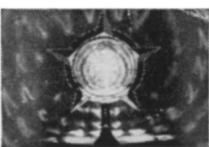
The new legislation provides \$2.79 billion for health construction, authorizing \$350 million more for direct grants than the President requested in his fiscal 1971 budget. The bill extends for three years the Hill-Burton program and contains a clause making it mandatory for the President to spend all of the funds Congress appropriates for health programs through fiscal 1973, including funds for research. Mr. Nixon, who has stressed modernization of existing facilities and construction of ambulatory care units over building entirely new hospitals, has called the bill "fiscally irresponsible." □

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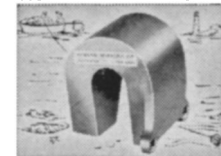
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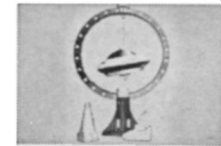
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