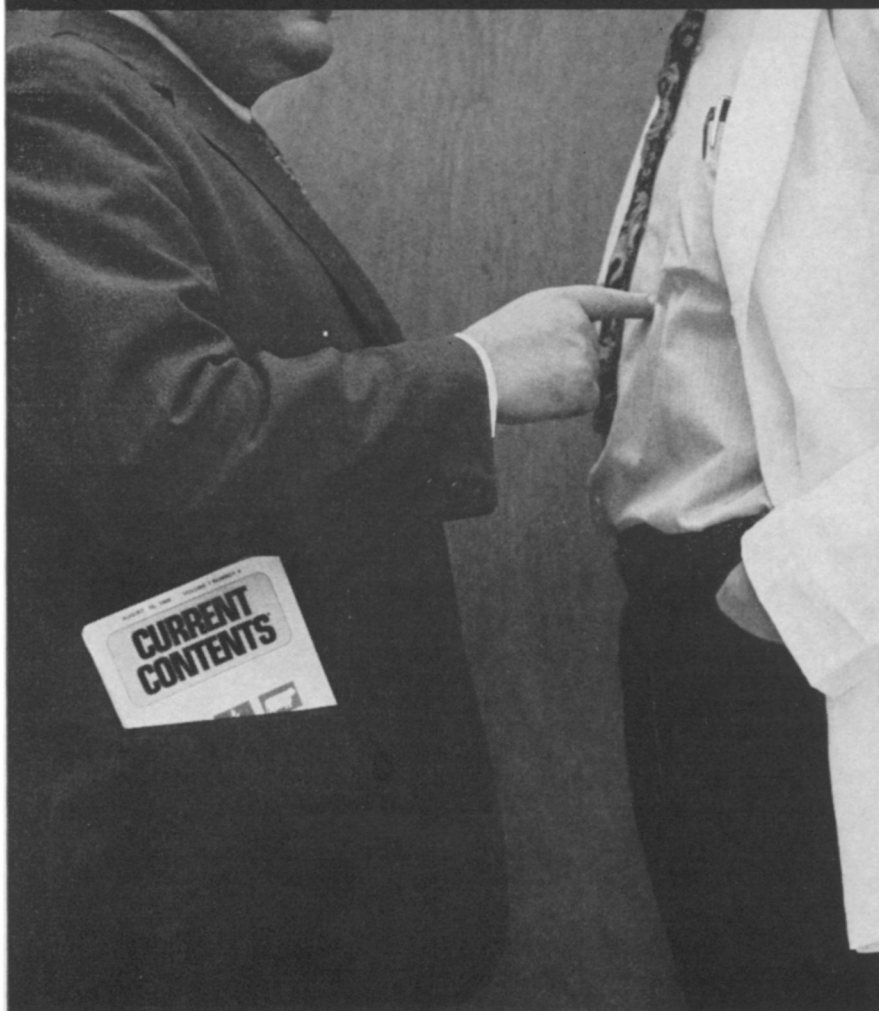


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SCIENCE NEWSBRIEFS

Drug abuse concession

Attorney General John N. Mitchell this week bent a bit under pressure from the scientific community to relinquish some, but not all of his control over drugs under the proposed Drug Abuse Control Act (SN: 6/20, p. 598). He told the House Ways and Means Committee, one of two House committees considering Senate-passed legislation, that he would accede to placing supervision of research involving narcotics and drugs subject to abuse with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The Senate had enacted legislation giving Mitchell's Department of Justice full control over such research, subject only to the advice of HEW and an independent scientific advisory committee. It would also permit him to classify drugs as to their susceptibility to abuse, and penalties for abuse, under the law.

Scientists have objected to both powers. Mitchell, so far, has agreed to relinquish only the former. □

NSF funds

The National Science Foundation has been given approval to spend \$539,730,000 in fiscal 1970—the first time in its history the authorization has exceeded \$500 million. The House approved on July 15 the figure recommended by a House-Senate conference committee. The Administration budget request was for \$513 million.

The authorization bill includes \$9.5 million for graduate traineeships not included in the Administration budget proposal (SN: 2/7, p. 144) and \$20 million to support academic science projects transferred to NSF from other agencies.

The bill actually appropriating funds for NSF is still before a House-Senate conference committee (SN: 7/11, p. 34). The House appropriated \$497 million, including \$13 million for the Sea Grant Program; the Senate appropriated \$522 million. □

Urban atmospheres

St. Louis has been selected as the focus of a large-scale cooperative study of the impact of a city on the atmosphere. The program has been taking shape in a series of informal planning meetings in the last few months, the latest at the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

Researchers from a variety of government agencies, universities and other institutions will take part in the program, which is expected to extend over several years. The first major field effort, to begin in 1971, will examine the evidence (SN: 4/18, p. 391) that urban air pollution may stimulate rainfall downwind from a large city. □