

most subsequent estimates have been based on extrapolations from this study.

However, the U.S. Public Health Service in the 1960's studied certain costs related to air pollution in Steubenville, Ohio, and Uniontown, Pa., as reflected in six general categories related to home, office, store and clothing maintenance. In the much more heavily polluted Steubenville, annual costs (in 1960) ran \$84 higher per capita than in the far less industrialized Uniontown. A later study of Washington, D.C., suburbs showed similar proportionate differences in maintenance costs related to air pollution.

**The available studies** are extremely limited; the Steubenville, Uniontown and Washington ones relate only to maintenance costs and do not include, for instance, medical costs due to air pollution. But the absence of quantifiable data does not invalidate the concept of "external diseconomies." A Long Island resident who loses several hours of sleep a night because of jet noise from aircraft approaching nearby Kennedy airport pays a very real price.

Galbraith says part of the answer may lie in more realistic estimates of the value of growth. If a fourth airport is not built for New York City, he says, "the growth of air travel into and out of New York will at some period no longer increase." Thus, he says, some air traffic will be redistributed to Boston, Philadelphia and Washington, and some industries will locate elsewhere than in New York.

"Since almost everybody agrees that New York is already too big, this is a result which one should face with equanimity," he says.

In an interview this week with *SCIENCE NEWS*, Galbraith made two other points: Over-all economic growth can be slowed down in the interests of preserving the environment with no traumas such as massive unemployment necessarily resulting. Actually, he said, the choice is an optimistic one "between a rapid rate of growth and a more pleasant life. . . . A single-minded concentration on growth is not the answer."

Second, Galbraith said it is practical for the nation to massively shift priorities so as to give more emphasis to preserving the environment; this might create unemployment in some sectors, he said, but it would lead to an increase in employment in other sectors.

"Senior professors at Cambridge where I taught last year," Galbraith said, "had as high, or higher, standard of living at one-half the salary of my Harvard colleagues. There were so many external amenities that made life easier.

"There was good bus service, there was a good train to London that left

every hour and saved one the necessity of driving in the horrible London traffic. There was a good underground [subway] in London when one arrived. And there were excellent public schools for the children of the professors. The wives didn't have to wrestle the children off to school in the morning and the same when it was time for the children to come home; transportation was provided. There was plenty of open space and well-supervised playgrounds, and no problem of

looking after the children; there was a good police force."

Plenty of new employment could be created in the United States if the nation began to provide some of the Cambridge amenities, the Harvard economist declared. As to claims by such groups as the National Petroleum Council that the nation is locked into ever-accelerating growth in, for instance, energy use, he commented, "One should not confuse inspired self-interest with truth." □

#### AEC CHAIRMANSHIP

### An economist for a chemist

After 10 years as Chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg has resigned. The resignation was not entirely unexpected since in recent years Dr. Seaborg has accepted reappointment with a certain reluctance. He was first appointed in 1961 by President Kennedy.

To replace Dr. Seaborg President Nixon has chosen Dr. James R. Schlesinger, who is now assistant director of the Office of Management and Budget. Dr. Schlesinger, who earned his degree in economics at Harvard, worked for the Rand Corp. before joining the Nixon Administration in 1969. (He is no kin to Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., the Harvard historian, who was prominent in the Kennedy Administration.) Dr. Schlesinger's appointment appears consistent with the managerial businessman's approach of the present Government. It will certainly give food for thought to those Washington watchers who believe that the OMB is the true imperial power in the Nixon Administration.

Dr. Seaborg is a chemist with a particular interest in nuclear chemistry. He has been especially active in the discovery of new transuranic elements, a program on which he worked for a long time at the Lawrence Radiation

Laboratory at the University of California. For this work, especially the discovery of plutonium, he won the 1951 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

During World War II Dr. Seaborg headed the group at the University of Chicago's metallurgical laboratory that worked on methods of plutonium production. Between 1958 and 1961 he was chancellor of the Berkeley campus of the University of California. He is currently on leave as a professor of chemistry at Berkeley and has said he will return to his professorship.

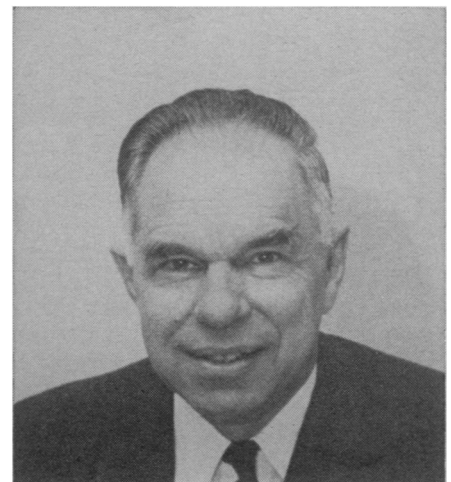
**The exact date** on which Dr. Seaborg will leave the AEC has not been announced, but it will not be until after he has visited the Soviet Union as head of an American delegation to visit peaceful nuclear energy facilities in the U.S.S.R. The dates of the visit are Aug. 4 to 20; it will return a visit to the United States by a Soviet delegation last April.

At the same time that he announced the nomination of Dr. Schlesinger, President Nixon also announced the nomination of William Offutt Doub of Baltimore to be a member of the AEC, succeeding the late Theos J. Thompson. Doub is a lawyer.

Both new appointments are subject to confirmation by the Senate. □



White House



AEC

*AEC chairmanship: Economist Schlesinger (left) replaces chemist Seaborg.*