efficiency and effectiveness of HEW. Harold O. Buzzell of the Department of Labor was named by Weinberger to implement the reorganization and then take over as director of the Health Services Administration. He will be the first Federal official in charge of health services who is not a physician.

What does all this mean to psychologists? George Albee of the University of Vermont and past president of the American Psychological Association foresees more and more psychologists turning to private practice. The possible inclusion of psychotherapy in any national health insurance program and the limited number of openings for psychologists in academia will also force psychologists into private practice. This will be unfortunate, says Albee, because the expense of private practice usually limits it to middle- and upper-class patients. Albee further predicts this trend will turn the APA into another American Medical Association, a protective rather than a scientific organization. □

Readying Rio Blanco

Technicians of Lawrence Livermore Laboratory lower the first of three 30-kiloton nuclear explosives into the ground at Project Rio Blanco near Meeker, Colo. The AEC-sponsored project is scheduled to set off the devices one mile underground on May 17 to free trapped natural gas in the Piceance basin. Eleven conservation groups this week petitioned President Nixon to halt the project, contending it could endanger groundwater that eventually flows into the Colorado River, which provides drinking water for 27 million people.

ESN

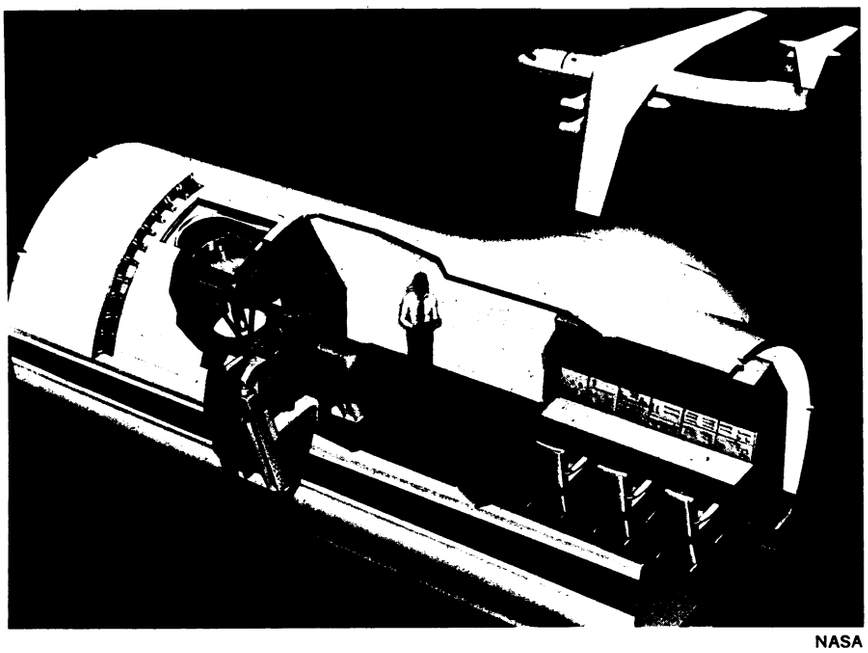
C-141 jet will carry 36-inch telescope

The crash of the research aircraft Galileo last month (SN: 4/21/73, p. 256) left a gaping hole in the airborne science research program at NASA's Ames Research Center. Coming when it did, the crash took some of the shine off the arrival of its partner in research —a C-141—that arrived at Ames last month for its finishing touches prior to flight missions in the fall.

The C-141, a Lockheed Model 200 Starlifter, has been modified extensively and equipped with a 36-inch telescope for infrared astronomy. The aircraft can cruise for seven hours at altitudes around 45,000 feet carrying heavy instruments, scientists and crew. Such astronomy flights would provide at least three hours observational time. At those altitudes, the telescope is above 85 percent of the earth's atmosphere and more than 99 percent of the water vapor, which is the major attenuator of infrared emissions from stars and galaxies.

The Galileo (see related story p. 309), the C-141 and a modified Lear Jet that has been in use for several years were the core of the airborne science program. Each aircraft was to be used in a complementary, but slightly different, mode. The Galileo was flown primarily for earth resources research, the Lear Jet for astronomy but with a smaller telescope (12 inches), and the C-141 was to be primarily for astronomy. During its first year of operation, for example, the C-141 would be able to fly about 60 astronomy missions. The Lear Jet and the C-141 are the only aircraft for infrared astronomy.

With the C-141 now almost ready for use, NASA is trying to replace the Galileo. The agency has asked the Department of Defense for a C-135B aircraft, but no one is ready to speculate yet just when or how the Galileo will be replaced. □



NASA

The C-141, with its telescope, will concentrate on infrared sources in space.

Light flashes no danger for short space flights

The light flashes and streaks seen by astronauts have long been attributed to high-energy, heavy cosmic particles (HZE) passing through the eyes (SN: 5/30/70, p. 523). The phenomenon was first reported during Apollo 11.

Three years of space flight and ground-based research into the biological effects of these heavy particles is assessed in a new report released by the National Research Council's Space Science Board. The report concludes that the particles are not a serious hazard for short trips to the moon or earth-orbital missions such as Skylab. The astronauts would have to spend about two years in flight outside the earth's magnetosphere or in a high-inclination earth orbit before the radiation would be dangerous. The report recommends that at least one particle accelerator be modified for heavy-ion experiments. □