

amount to establish a John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences and to provide scholarships and fellowships in the Center. The late Rep. Fogarty was Congress' principal advocate of Federal health programs. President Johnson also asked extension of a Federal partnership in state and local programs in fiscal 1968 totaling \$161 million, an increase of \$41 million over the 1967 fiscal year. This will give the states new "flexibility" to use Federal funds by freeing them from "tightly compartmentalized grant programs," and is a piece of a broader Federal-state partnership the Administration calls "creative Federalism."

"Our Regional Medical Programs



NIH

Biomedical research resource.

for heart disease, cancer and stroke depend on a second partnership, involving doctors, medical schools, hospitals, and state and local health departments," the President said.

Because lung cancer is the leading cause of death from malignant disease, President Johnson directed Secretary Gardner to establish a Lung Cancer Task Force that, like other Cancer Task Forces already established, will bring together the resources of leading researchers for an all-out assault on this malignancy.

With the shortage in health manpower estimated to reach one million in the next 10 years, the President asked for a 22 percent increase in the 1968 appropriation, bringing the total to \$763 million. Plans include the use of thousands of medical corpsmen in the Armed Forces who return to civilian life each year and training is needed as well for other medical aides or physicians' assistants.

Space Budget Battle

The real battle hasn't started yet, but the troops are already out in force. The top brass of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration gathered en masse last week to defend its rich \$5.05 billion budget request against a siege by the House science committee; the pulling and hauling could last for weeks.

Even in the calm of the first encounter, NASA chief James E. Webb fired volley after volley, using both the Russians and the U.S. aerospace industry as his weapons.

The Russians have been active with very large rockets for four years, Webb said. "I believe they are clearly ahead (of the U.S.) and will stay ahead."

Included in NASA's proposed budget is a potential gap-closer—a nuclear-powered upper-stage rocket which could produce a quarter of a million pounds of thrust and could double the payload capability of the huge Saturn V booster that will send the Apollo astronauts to the moon.

As Webb was digging in on Capitol Hill, President Johnson joined the fray on the side of the nuclear rocket by sending Congress a request for \$91 million for Project Rover. Rover is an on-again, off-again nuclear rocket project that since the end of 1963 has never been permitted to include plans for development as far as a flight test model. If the President's recommendation is accepted, the first test engine should be delivered by 1971, with flight versions to follow. Of the total sum requested, \$50 million would go to NASA, the rest to the Atomic Energy Commission.

NASA's budget conflict with the Congress will not get really heavy until March 14, when the budget will be dissected into bits, such as Apollo applications and aeronautical research, for scrutiny by individual Congressional subcommittees.

And scrutiny there will be. Though Webb repeatedly refers to the proposed budget as "austere" and "thin," it is still \$83 million bigger than the current one. What Webb really wants is the \$6 billion or so he says is needed to "give us preeminence in all major aspects of space and aeronautics."

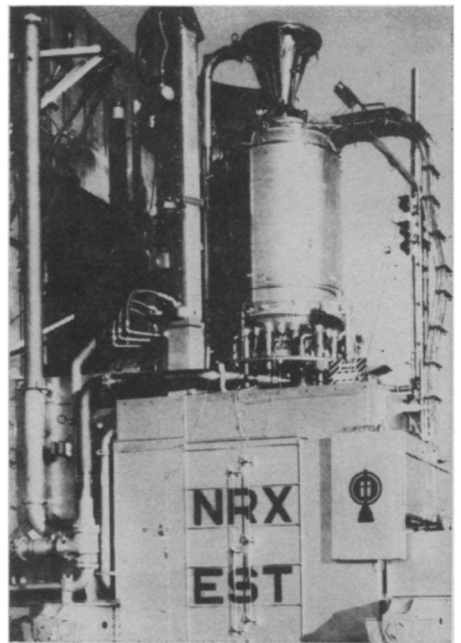
As things are now, space manpower and production are both down from their peaks, since Apollo is approaching its end and new programs have not yet been funded. "Failure to approve new programs this year," warned Webb, "will be a signal to the world that we are not in space to stay," and in the case of the Saturn family of booster rockets, "is equivalent to a decision to stop production."

As a result of the Jan. 27 Apollo fire

on the moon-landing timetable, Webb said, "We cannot now state whether we will be able to meet the goal of a manned lunar landing before 1970." The possibility, he admitted, is "more remote" than it was before the accident.

The day before, Webb and other NASA officials had reported that specific safety improvements, including a gas-operated quick-release escape hatch, will be installed on the next Apollo spacecraft, now on the assembly lines at North American Aviation, Downey, Calif. Among the changes will be:

- Removal or relocation of flammable materials in the capsule;
- Modifications to the electrical system, where the fire may have started;
- The communications system, which could have provided better links than it did between the spacecraft and the control center;
- The environmental control system, which presently contains a flammable compound, ethylene glycol, as a coolant;
- Safety procedures during tests, which at the time of the accident were "focused on propellant hazards and did not include provisions to meet spacecraft fires."



NASA

Nuclear rocket engine: Rover-to-be.

Meanwhile . . .

Back at the White House, President Johnson proposed another budget amendment having to do with space, but in an unusual way. As part of his health and education message to Congress (see story), the President recommended \$9 million for the establishment of a "Corporation for Public Television," one of whose first jobs would be to study the possibility of an educational satellite system.