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transportation and fishing. On the shallow bottom and the coastline, concern is with such things as controlling coastal erosion, controlling pollution of coastal waters, and mapping and surveying the continental shelf in preparation for a later exploitation.

Extension of resource exploitation to the deep sea bottom is expected to come gradually as need dictates, and technology permits.

But its coming is being planned, although at a rather deliberate pace. The U.S. Government has consulted with 41 other governments about a treaty to set up a decade of international collaboration in oceanography, mainly dealing with the deep sea.

This and other questions of sovereignty are under consideration by an ad hoc committee of the United Nations.

The Administration would like to go slowly on the treaty, feeling, as the Vice President put it, that the international situation is not ready for it yet. Some in the Senate disagree; that body has before it a resolution by Senator Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) embodying a draft treaty and intended to give the Administration a push.

Meanwhile the Administration, in its fiscal 1969 budget, asks for \$516 million for marine science and technology, up 15 percent from this year.

Some of the specific items: \$6 million for expansion of the sea grant college program, \$14.5 million for a new arctic and polar research ship, and \$16 million for mapping the continental shelf.

The Great Lakes, which can be classed as fresh-water seas, are also in the report. Pollution control, fisheries, water level, and serious problems of shore erosion are to be studied.

HEALTH REORGANIZATION

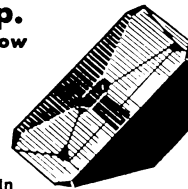
A first step taken

President Johnson has ordered the first step in the reorganization of the health functions of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (SN: 3/9 p. 231). But he has given no indication of the ultimate fate of the National Institutes of Health. That, presumably, still awaits the appointment of a new HEW secretary to succeed John W. Gardner—if a shift to independence for NIH hasn't been scrapped altogether.

What the President has done is to assign Assistant Secretary Philip R. Lee unified direction of all the department's health functions, including the Food and Drug Administration, the health activities of the Children's Bureau and the Public Health Service, as well as such service functions as Medicare and Medicaid.

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Note: Quotations from many more who know astronomy best will appear later.

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