

## GENERAL SCIENCE

# Foundation Bill Stymied

► SCIENTISTS who are hoping that Congress—after four years—will finally pass a bill to set up a national science foundation have a new kind of problem. It's how to get a bill out of the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives.

The scientists include many of the nation's best-known men of science. They are experts at charting the paths of the tiny particles that make up an atom or probing the bits of stuff inside the cells of the human body or studying the faint specks of light that left distant stars billions of years ago. Leaders in nearly all major fields of science have told congressional committees for four years that they want to see the foundation created. Newest legislation to bring this about has been in the House Rules committee's lap for nearly two months without any action having been taken.

The Senate passed a science foundation bill in March, but the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce rearranged the measure and did not report it out until June 13. Since then, it has been in the Rules Committee. With many congressmen talking about adjournment, supporters fear that the foundation may die in the House for the third time in four years.

A new move to get action on the bill has just been taken. Rep. Robert Crosser, D., Ohio, chairman of the Commerce Committee, has introduced a resolution to bring the foundation bill to the floor of the House.

But here, again, scientists supporting the measure may be disappointed.

Under the parliamentary rules of the House, which it seems can approach some scientific rules in complexity, the resolution is referred to the Rules committee. If the committee does not act on either the science foundation bill or the resolution, Rep.

Crosser can call for a vote on his resolution, but not before Sept. 12 at the earliest. This type of resolution can be called up only on the second or fourth Monday of a month, and only after three weeks have elapsed following its introduction.

Thus, the science foundation's fate at this session of Congress appears to hinge to some extent on how long the law-makers are in session.

The foundation would be a new government agency, charged with administering government support of science. Four times in as many years, the Senate has approved it, but President Truman vetoed one bill and two others failed in the House. The present bill in the House, as well as the Senate version, will probably be approved, when and if it reaches the White House.

Science News Letter, August 20, 1949

## On This Week's Cover

► SERENE, cool, immaculate, the waterlily floats beneath the summer sun. The delight of poets of all ages and peoples, this lovely flower has infected botanists, too, with poesy: its learned Latin name, *Nymphaea*, needs no explanation. The real home of the waterlilies is in the tropics; here they develop all sizes and colors, including delicate pinks, glowing reds and gorgeous blues. There are only a few kinds of waterlilies in the United States, but two of them at least are real beauties. The Western species, that grows in ponds far up the slopes of the Rocky Mountains, is a splendid yellow. The Eastern species, that floats on all waters from the Great Plains to the Atlantic seaboard, is shining white, and fragrant as well.

Science News Letter, August 20, 1949

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## ● RADIO

Saturday, August 27, 3:15 p.m., EDST

"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. Walter O. Walker, director of research of Ansul Chemical Company, Marinette, Wis., will discuss "Modern Fire Fighting."

*Fluorine*, the colorless and dangerous gas usually obtained from fluorspar, was never much used except for etching glass until the fabulous research project that resulted in the atomic bomb got under way.

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