



Left to right: Rep. Thomas E. Morgan (D.-Pa.), surgeon; Rep. Ivor D. Fenton (R.-Pa.), physician; Rep. Frank Kowalski (D.-Conn.), chemist; Sen. Ernest Gruening (D.-Alaska), physician; Rep. Walter H. Judd (R.-Minn.), surgeon; Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn.), pharmacist; Rep. Walter Mann Mumma (R.-Pa.), forester.

covered that he "prefers political timber to any other kind."

Rep. T. Dale Alford (D.-Ark.), an ophthalmologist and a freshman in Congress, still maintains his practice. Like his colleagues, he may frown on politics in science, but favors science in politics.

These scientist-legislators believe, as Rep. Meyer has said, that "in these times, when science plays so dominant a role in world and national affairs, more scientists should enter into politics."

The legal profession presently dominates the United States legislative branch, numbering 60% of the members of both houses. Businessmen and farmers elected to Congress number about 18%. Newspapermen and teachers are less than 10%. The remainder, including nine of the 11 women in Congress, come from a variety of professions and occupations ranging from ministers to morticians. Two of the women are lawyers.

The U. S. legislative make-up contrasts sharply with that of the USSR. The majority of the 1,378 members of both Soviet legislative houses are workers and peasants, with 831 (60%) included in these two categories.

According to Igor Bubnov, information officer of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, almost half of these deputies are actively engaged in agricultural production and industry.

But more than 25% of the Supreme Council are "working scientists," the Soviet spokesman said. This category would include engineers, agronomists, doctors, public health specialists, chemists, physicists, dentists, botanists, biologists and representatives of many other science fields.

Lawyers are virtually unrepresented in the Supreme Council. Rep. McIntire, Congress' sole agronomist, a member of the House Agricultural Committee and a farmer, said, "It is not surprising that lawyers are so little represented in the Soviet Council. In the totalitarian communist state, men—not laws—are supreme. The United States is a nation of laws, not men. Lawyers naturally would tend to dominate and lead in the government of a country such as ours."

While appreciating the function and need for lawyers in government, Rep.

McIntire pointed out that legal training by itself is not necessarily a qualification for a successful political career. Scientific training may be an even better preparation for Congress, he said, judging by the activity and political leadership offered by the scientific minority in Congress. In serving on their Congressional committees, they have taken a lead in domestic and foreign affairs involving nuclear disarmament, test suspension, world health and the national and international aspects of space exploration.

• Science News Letter, 78:106 August 13, 1960

MEDICINE

Overseas Medical Aid Improves U. S. Health

► THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT spends more than three billion dollars annually for health and health-related activities.

Of this amount, more than \$150,000,000 is for health activities abroad.

The pay-off in scientific knowledge from this large investment was stressed by physicians and health authorities in testimony before the Subcommittee on Reorganization and International Organizations of the Senate Committee on Government Operations. The Subcommittee chairman is Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn.).

U. S. support for international cooperative research in cardiovascular diseases alone has provided significant advances in understanding the causes of heart disease. Dr. Paul Dudley White, president of the International Society of Cardiology Foundation, told the Committee.

The United States and Finland have the highest frequency of coronary heart disease in the world. In 1958, heart diseases accounted for more than 30% of all deaths in the United States, including accidents.

Dr. White said international cooperation to determine the various factors in living habits and customs that are related to the frequency of coronary failure in a particular human community is necessary "for the sake of our own health, not just to aid other countries."

Dr. Albert B. Sabin of the University of Cincinnati, who developed a live, oral polio virus vaccine, said that field trials with the

vaccine on a large scale were not possible in the U. S. because of the earlier extensive use of the Salk vaccine. The large-scale foreign trials were made possible only by cooperation and work with the World Health Organization.

Dr. Edward L. Bortz, president of the medical staff of Lankenau Hospital in Philadelphia, and an authority on geriatrics, said the United States has valuable information that can contribute to the health and welfare of older individuals, and that international medical cooperation would help spread this beneficial knowledge.

He urged a long-range international research program to "accelerate the discovery of new facts leading to a more efficient control of the diseases and deteriorations that affect aging individuals."

Dr. Jonas Salk, whose vaccine was one of the great breakthroughs in conquering polio, wrote the Subcommittee that "our attitude about the problem of international health, and, more importantly, what we do about it, could influence greatly some of the most urgent world problems."

The Subcommittee under Sen. Humphrey currently is inviting public appraisal of the work it has done and is trying to plan guidance for future U. S. policy in international medical cooperation.

• Science News Letter, 78:107 August 13, 1960

ENGINEERING

U. S. Engineering Schools Spent \$71 Million on R&D

► UNITED STATES ENGINEERING schools spent \$71,000,000 for sponsored research and development in fiscal year 1958, the National Science Foundation reported.

Of this, \$48,600,000 was given the schools by the Federal Government. Industry supplied \$10,300,000. The schools themselves spent \$10,500,000 of their own funds for research and development. An additional \$3,500,000 of their own funds were used to cover the indirect, extra costs of grants and contracts mainly supported by outside sources.

The survey covered 129 engineering schools. Of the total spent, 57% went for basic research. In the last study in 1954, only 45% was spent on basic research.

• Science News Letter, 78:107 August 13, 1960