Search, it is designed to test ability to think and reason in terms of scientific concepts and vocabulary. Most science-minded high school seniors find the examination challenging and enjoyable to take since it is much like the problems, puzzles and games so many of them delight in solving.

Scores on this test represent only one part in the judging procedures that select the students who seem most likely to become outstanding research scientists. There is no predetermined "passing" grade. In the group of honors winners, the lowest score for boys was 158 and for girls, 130. The highest score among the boys was 228 out of a total possible score of 247. Highest score among the girls, who made up 25% of the entrants, was 204.

Detailed scholastic records of each "passing" contestant were evaluated. Information offered by the student and his faculty sponsor about his accomplishments, activities, traits and attitudes was weighed carefully to find any of a number of good combinations of achievement and promise.

Each entrant is required to submit a written report of an individual research project. This usually amounts to a thousand or so words of text, plus relevant diagrams, graphs, theorems, pictures, etc. The papers of all the students were read critically by a board of professional scientists which included specialists in the many fields explored by the student-scientists. This board studied and evaluated reports on computer methods, viruses, planet observations, fish identification, complex mathematics, astigmatism and more than a thousand other subjects.

Correlating all of these evaluations, the board of judges selected an Honors Group of 356 students (10% of those with completely qualified entries) who showed outstanding scientific potential. To choose 40 top winners from this Honors Group, each detail was reexamined and weighed.

During the Science Talent Institute, to be held March 1 through March 5 in Washington, D. C., the file on each of these 40 will be supplemented by personal interviews. In addition to the mutually rewarding experience of learning to know each other, they will meet eminent scientists, visit scientific laboratories of national agencies, and keep their scheduled appointments for interviews with the judges. The Westinghouse scholarships and awards traditionally are announced at the banquet which closes the Institute.

The five scholarships of $7,500, $6,000, $5,000, $4,000 and $3,000, and the 35 awards of $250 each, may be used at any accredited college or university and are intended to assure the professional training of these young pre-scientists. Recognition in the Science Talent Search brings many thousands of dollars in other scholarship offers to the Honors Group. In addition, 41 states and the District of Columbia conduct State Science Talent Searches in cooperation with Science Clubs of America, awarding more than half a million dollars in scholarships to students from their states who were qualified entrants in the national Search.

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EDUCATION

Federal Role in Education

White House lends its support to a survey of Federal educational programs and a Bill to aid building classrooms, laboratories and libraries, Lillian Levy reports.

➤ A SURVEY of Federal educational programs and their impact on higher education will be undertaken for the first time with full support from the White House.

News of the pioneer study, to be undertaken by Rep. Edith Green (D.-Ore.), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Education, was announced by the Congresswoman in an address before representatives of five major college organizations who met in Washington, D. C., to announce their unified support for specific legislation to provide Federal aid for building college classrooms, laboratories and libraries.

The group backed education bills HR 7215 and HR 8900 which are currently before the House Rules Committee. Rep. Green predicted that there are now enough votes in the Rules Committee to vote out HR 8900 which will provide for optional loans or grants for assistance in the construction of such college facilities. She warned that greater communication between the academicians and members of Congress would be needed if the bill was to get the necessary majority in the House.

A number of the Representatives, "a good 400," have not been close enough to this important problem of education, she observed. Some of the opponents feel that any Federal aid to education imposes undue influence. These opponents do not realize, she emphasized, the tremendous amount of Federal educational aid that presently exists in the form of research grants to colleges and various educational programs. Her investigations show that the Federal Government now is engaged in more than 800 programs in the field of education, involving 40 agencies. Of these the Department of Defense has the largest number of programs—a total of 61—with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare running second with 47 educational programs.

"I don't know of a single person in the Federal Government or in the United States who really knows what the Federal Government is doing in the field of education," she said.

She indicated that as a consequence funds now allocated may be misspent or wasted in either unnecessary programs or duplication. As an example she pointed to the $70,000,000 presently allocated for extension educational programs for rural areas, despite the fact that rural populations are declining.

In welcoming the support of HR 8900 by the educators, Rep. Green noted that the bill limited construction for sectarian instruction only to avoid controversial religious issues. The exclusion of gyms and athletic facilities from Federal support was deliberate, emphasizing the point that a greater need existed for libraries, classrooms and laboratories rather than gysnasiums.

Rep. Green, a former educator, also expressed some misgivings concerning the present emphasis on science and technology as fields of study.

The college groups represented included the American Council on Education, American Association of Junior Colleges, Association of American Colleges, Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, and the State Universities Association.

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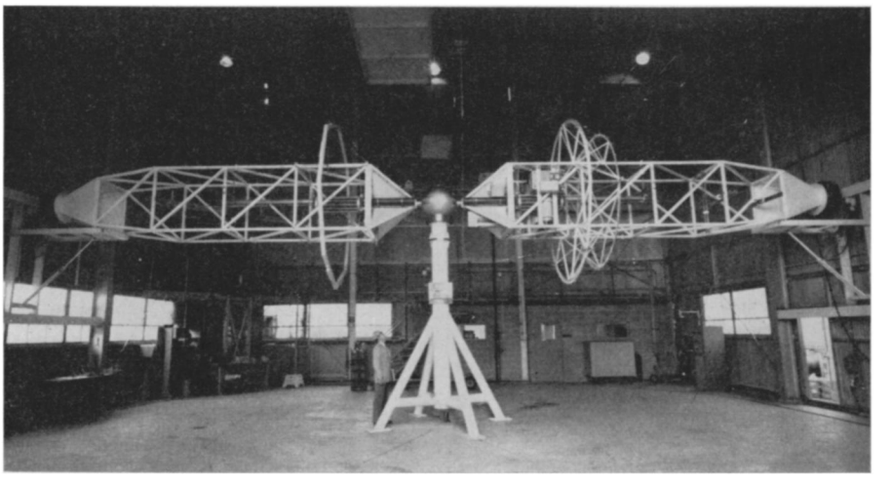

SPACE VEHICLE SIMULATOR—Operating at General Dynamics/Astronautics' Point Loma Test Site, San Diego, Calif., this space vehicle simulator duplicates on the ground the "flight" of the Centaur upper-stage space vehicle in orbit.