

GENERAL SCIENCE

Science Under Johnson

► THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION is expected to rely heavily upon science and technology and expert advice from consultants just as was the case under the Kennedy Administration.

President Johnson has been an active and vocal protagonist for putting an American on the moon as soon as possible. Any reversal of that national goal is not likely, even though scientists and others have recommended an about face, a slowing of the pace or a substitution of instruments for a living person in the moon's conquest. He probably would welcome, as Kennedy would have, a joint expedition with Russia if it could be arranged safely.

The world of science, technology and engineering will offer to President Johnson its cooperation and collaboration in his new Administration. Strong and significant advances in utilizing the knowledge of specialists and organizations in all fields were made in the Kennedy Administration, which reinforced and added to the reliance on expert knowledge that the years since World War II had seen.

The National Academy of Sciences is expected to continue to be chief adviser and consultant to the Government and through expert committees give counsel on moot problems when called upon to do so.

In reverse of the traditional formal letters of resignation offered a new President by appointive officers in the Government, the top science body of the nation will renew its offer of cooperation to President Johnson. The National Academy of Sciences has just celebrated its hundredth anniversary of founding by Congress on call of President Lincoln.

The Office of Science and Technology in the Executive Office of the President, headed by Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner, as director, who resigned several weeks ago, will continue in all probability a dominant role in planning and executing science matters in the Federal Government.

The Federal Council of Science and Technology, composed of heads of Government bureaus chiefly concerned with research in the sciences, will probably remain constituted as it is and serve its past function.

The President's Science Advisory Board which has brought to the Government the advice of leading scientists in universities and nongovernment research laboratories is expected to continue its function. This body last met just three days before President Kennedy's assassination.

The science body in Government with which President Johnson was most closely connected was the National Aeronautics and Space Council which he headed.

"In this position he accelerated all space activity across the board," an aide said. It was Vice President Johnson who recommended to President Kennedy, full-speed on the man-on-the-moon project.

He also was the force behind acceleration of programs to build supersonic transports and big rocket boosters.

This Council, part of the Executive Office of the President, may very well play an enhanced role upon the national science scene. Other members are Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, Administrator James E. Webb of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Chairman Glenn T. Seaborg of the Atomic Energy Commission.

A change in command in the federal direction of science was in process when President Kennedy was assassinated. Dr. Wiesner had asked to be relieved of the post and Dr. Donald F. Hornig, a Princeton chemist, had been named by President Kennedy to this important office. (See SNL, 84:327, Nov. 23, 1963.)

On "medicare," President Johnson is expected to oppose the American Medical Association and support Social Security plans.

On November 21 he shared the platform with President Kennedy at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, for the dedication of the new School of Aerospace Medicine.

When Johnson was Senate Majority Leader in 1956 he strongly supported legislation for this national center.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

President Johnson Urges An End to Violence

► PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON, addressing a joint session of Congress, stressed the brotherhood of man and called for "an end to the teaching and preaching of hate and evil and violence."

On Nov. 27, the President said:

"Let us turn away from the fanatics on the far left and the far right, from the apostles of bitterness and bigotry, from those defiant of law, and those who pour venom into our nation's blood stream."

Early in his speech, he urged a continuation of President John F. Kennedy's program for conquering the vastness of space, partnership across the Atlantic and the Pacific, a Peace Corps in less developed lands, education for "all of our children," jobs for all who seek and need them, care for our elderly, an all-out attack on mental illness, and "above all," equal rights for all Americans, whatever their race or color.

These and other American dreams, President Johnson said, were vitalized by President Kennedy's drive and dedication and he urged that they now be translated into "effective action." The President emphasized that in this age there can be "no losers in peace and no victors in war."

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MEDICINE

Johnson's Heart Good

► PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON is in no more danger of having a second heart attack than if he had never had the first one, Dr. James Cain, who was mentioned as a possible new White House physician, said.

Dr. Cain, a heart specialist at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., went around the world with the then Vice President two years ago.

"He wore us all out and came back in better physical condition than when he started," Dr. Cain recalled.

President Johnson visited Mayo Clinic for a checkup in 1956, Dr. Cain said, and whenever Dr. Cain has been in Washington, he has checked up on his personal friend.

"The President is blessed with unlimited energy," Dr. Cain said, "and he does not appear to get tired even when he pushes himself from seven in the morning to seven at night."

The only advice Dr. Cain offers the President now is the kind he would give to anyone, he said. This is to take adequate rest and recreation, just as former President Eisenhower did.

"I hope he makes himself take vacations," Dr. Cain said.

Both Dr. Cain and Dr. J. Willis Hurst, Atlanta cardiologist who is head of the department of medicine, Emory University, were mentioned as being President Johnson's likely choice for the job of White House physician.

Dr. Hurst was reached by phone, having just returned from Washington, but both

he and Dr. Cain said rumors of their appointment should be "spiked."

The President stopped by Emory some years ago after his 1955 heart attack, and Dr. Hurst, who is another of his personal friends and medical advisers, said he always sees Johnson when he is in Washington.

"The President has recovered beautifully, and is capable of tremendous work," Dr. Hurst reported.

Neither man denied that he would accept the appointment if President Johnson insisted that he become White House physician, but both are busy and do not "seek" the job. The White House said announcement would be made "soon."

There are grounds for optimism about the new President's chances for health, in view of President Eisenhower's long survival following the same kind of coronary heart attack. But other heart specialists sound a word of caution.

Col. Weldon J. Walker, chief of cardiology, Walter Reed Army Hospital, for example, told SCIENCE SERVICE that statistically the chances for a second heart attack are somewhat greater than for a first attack.

"Not having treated President Johnson," Col. Walker said, "I do not know what risks he may face. Emotional tension, for example, is believed by some authorities to be a precipitation factor to heart attack."

"But I personally rate overweight and the eating of fats along with heavy cigarette smoking as more dangerous than tension."

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