

Order 11185, set up a Federal Interagency Committee on Education (FICE). This group is chaired by the Commissioner of Education (from DHEW), and includes a representative from each of the following agencies: The Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labor, the National Science Foundation, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Again (as with the FCST), NIH as a third-echelon component in DHEW, is not a member of the Committee. However, because of its substantial educational involvement, NIH expects to be called upon for staff assistance to FICE and to participate in at least some of the Committee's activities. Also relevant to this Committee, NIH has been intimately involved with NSF, AEC, NASA and OE representatives in developing a tentative proposal for a formal interagency working group. This group, if established in proposed form, would advise FICE on what progress could be achieved toward common education goals through voluntary interagency cooperation and information exchange.

Another formal mechanism for coordination across Federal science programs is provided by the Science Information Exchange, a component of the Smithsonian Institution. The SIE acts as a central repository for information on current and past research projects, whether supported by NIH, other elements of the PHS, other Federal agencies, or by private foundations. While SIE sources of data are not as comprehensive as might be wished for, NIH has found it a continuing and ready source of needed information on the support of specific research areas and of specific scientific investigators.

A variety of other means—some formal but most of them informal—assist in the coordination of NIH activities with those of other Federal agencies:

- (1) Annual reports and other periodicals and special publications of each agency become useful resources. Specific mention here should be made of the "Federal Funds for Science" series issued by the National Science Foundation.

- (2) The National Register of Scientists and Engineers (maintained by the NSF through the use of biennial questionnaires) is used by NIH in assessing research manpower resources.

- (3) At meetings of NIH National Advisory Councils, voting members are present from the Department of Defense and Veterans' Administration. Also, an NSF representative is a member of the NIH Health Research Facilities Council.

- (4) More than 80 representatives from other Federal agencies sit as liaison members on NIH study sections. These liaison members are selected by their own agencies because of their competence in the study section area, and generally take vigorous part in all study section activities.

- (5) Observers from other agencies (as well as from other parts of DHEW) may attend NIH Council and study section meetings. When common-interest areas are known to be involved, executive secretaries of study sections will make a point of inviting specific observers.

- (6) An informal interagency group meets semiannually to work out agreements on stipends and fellowship support levels. These meetings so far have been chaired by the NSF representative, but