

the NAS-NRC ruled ineffective by Ke-fauver-Harris standards have yet to be removed from the market (SN: 1/11, p. 33). Edwards declares that he will soon propose a plan for efficiently implementing the Academy's recommendations before all the legal issues are resolved. Panalba is one of the condemned products, and the legal battle surrounding it is whether FDA can regulate it out of existence without a prior hearing.

In another effort to improve FDA's operations, Dr. Edwards, backed by his immediate superior in HEW, assistant secretary Dr. Roger O. Egeberg, will give drug companies advance warning of his intentions to withdraw a product in order to allow what Dr. Egeberg calls "time for mutual planning."

On a yet broader scale, the new commissioner intends to review the 1962 amendments that so increased the scope of FDA's regulatory authority. "We may seek some revisions," he states. The drug industry has few complaints with the laws themselves, but would like to meet with the FDA to review the

HEW

After the veto

Legislation authorizing funds for the Departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare under the fiscal 1970 budget has been pending since July 1969 (SN: 1/17, p. 57). The appropriation bill, which affects some 15 agencies under the departments, may become the hottest issue of the election year.

This week, President Nixon vetoed the big money bill on the grounds that it was inflationary, and sent it back to Congress for consideration.

The bill increased the President's original budget by \$1.2 billion, more than \$1 billion of which was funded for education. Health and research funds were increased as well.

The most controversial measure, and the biggest item, concerns the \$600 million requested by Congress for the Impacted Aid Program, which provides education funds for those areas which have a high concentration of Federal installations. The President's budget originally called for \$202 million.

In this area a compromise may be reached. Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) predicts that the Administration will go along with a figure of \$400 million. Mr. Nixon has made no statement to this effect, and thus far has only suggested a temporary solution that would fully fund children whose parents live on Federal installations and partially fund those children whose parents do not.

On other issues, President Nixon

agency's implementation of them. The Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, representing 105 of the nation's largest drug manufacturers, has proposed a conference including FDA and PMA spokesmen, as well as a third, "disinterested" party. Though no decision has been reached, the industry feels a positive response is more likely now than it was before.

To avoid repetition of the MSG and cyclamate catastrophes, new procedures will be instituted for directing data on "crisis" items to top management, and decisions regarding drugs and foods will be made with what may be a conservative leaning.

"As the biological and physical sciences probe deeper and learn to measure values even more minutely," Dr. Edwards says, "our common concepts of what is acceptable as safe must change. The time has come for us to agree that the public health cannot be endangered for months or years while we attempt to accumulate all of the scientific data needed for an absolute determination of safety or danger." □

disapproves of the increase in spending for vocational education because "results in student performance have fallen far short of our expectations." On health care he charges that increases are for building community hospitals, despite the growing awareness that ambulatory care facilities are more urgently needed.

One piece of the legislation, though small compared to the other programs, is a \$49-million increase in research funds for the National Institutes of Health over what the President requested. In the early speculation about possible compromises, the NIH increase has not been mentioned, but it might become an issue if the negotiations become tense.

There is a chance, however, that the whole bill may go down the drain. The departments have been operating at a level determined by last year's budget, as authorized by continuing legislation, which is up for renewal at the end of January. If the veto of the budget bill is sustained, the House may go along with the President's substitute proposals, but the mood is otherwise in the Senate, where wounded pride is more pronounced. Says a spokesman for the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, "The Senate may go so far as to send the same bill back to the President for another veto." In that case, with the 1971 budget due this week, the continuing legislation may be merely continued.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Sharing wealth and authority

American politicians and political scientists are traditionally perplexed by the problem of achieving a satisfactory balance between the powers of the Federal Government and those of state and local governments. Nearly everyone has some objection to the continually expanding range of Federal authority and influence. At the same time, local governments often lack the resources to undertake large-scale public welfare programs, and responsibility for such programs usually lands upon the Federal Government by default.

In his State of the Union message last week, President Nixon faced the problem head-on and unveiled his solution. Sounding not the least bit perplexed, the President announced that the hour of a "new Federalism" had at last arrived. Under the new Federalism, he said, "after 190 years of power flowing from the people and local and state governments to Washington, D.C., it will begin to flow from Washington back to the states and to the people of the United States."

The President did not, however, specify how a reversal of the tides of power was to be accomplished. Indeed, the portions of the State of the Union message concerned with social welfare suggest that on a practical level the problem remains just as perplexing as ever.

Most of the social programs that the President mentioned in his speech will inevitably increase Federal spending, and consequently Federal authority. Whether the \$10 billion pollution control program will amount to a real increase in Federal spending is still being debated. There is no question, however, but that Administration proposals to support local law enforcement agencies will be expensive: The Government expects to double its spending in this area for 1971. And proposed welfare reforms, which Mr. Nixon placed at the top of his list of urgent domestic priorities, will cost the Government an additional \$4 billion annually, at least in their first few years of operation. The annual income of \$1,600 for a family of four that the Administration proposes to guarantee may not sound like a large sum, but it is all the Administration feels it can afford.

Other social programs to which the President alluded in a more general fashion promise to be equally expensive. He deplored, for example, the present trend toward a heavy concentration of the American population in urban areas, and suggested that a new rural environment must be created "which will not only stem the migra-