

# Ocean No Sacred Cow

# Oceanography Program Feels Bite of Congressional Ax

(Editor's note: This is the third in a series on the nation's new oceanography program as part of the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union.)

By A. ROBERT SMITH  
Mail Tribune

Washington - Unlike the space budget for reaching the moon, the oceanography budget for getting to the bottom of the seas is no sacred cow on Capitol Hill.

Even the familiar concerns about the increase of Russian submarines and the decline of commercial fishing are sufficient to stay the congressional ax.

In January President Kennedy asked Congress for \$156 million for his expanding oceanography program. The money was to be split roughly between military and civilian agencies. The first blow came when the \$75 million requested for the Defense Department, virtually all of it for the Navy, was slashed by \$20 million. This came as a surprise because defense appropriations have an easier ride through Congress than those for civilian agencies.

The civilian half of the oceanography program is also in trouble. Congressional budget-cutting will prevent a number of agencies from expanding their work in the field. Like a new skin-diver who hugs the shore, Congress appears fearful of taking the plunge into the depths where oceanographers say the United States must go to match the Soviet advances in this field.

The U.S. oceanography effort, spread throughout some 20 agencies, is coordinated by the Interagency Committee on Oceanography under the supervision of the president's science advisor, Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner. The committee, composed of officials from Navy, Commerce, Interior, Treasury, State, Health, Education and Welfare, Atomic Energy Commission, National Science Foundation and Smithsonian Institution, attempts to avoid costly overlapping by assign-

ing research tasks to each government agency.

The Bureau of Mines, for example, was assigned this year the task of studying new and novel oceanic mining systems. Today there is no mining conducted at an ocean depth greater than 400 feet. Yet there are vast areas of deep ocean floor that are carpeted with nodules of manganese and iron which contain cobalt, nickel, copper and other valuable metals. Russia is known to be active in sea floor mineral surveying.

Two years ago a University of California engineer and specialist in mineral technology, John L. Mero, urged such an effort by telling a Senate committee:

"It seems strange that the

U. S. government will invest hundreds of millions of dollars to develop ore deposits in places such as Cuba - only to lose the entire investment - but cannot spend a few hundred thousand over the years to help develop the vastly greater in size and richer in grade deposits on the ocean floor. In addition to being politically free, these deposits would be royalty-free ores for us."

Kennedy's budget request for the Bureau of Mines was increased this year from \$52,000 to start a deep sea mining effort. Paul Zinner, assistant director of the bureau, told a House appropriations subcommittee such an effort would cost about \$20 million over the next decade.

Zinner said the bureau would need a ship - a moth-balled Navy vessel would do - and a suitable shore facility, such as the abandoned Tongue Point naval base at the mouth of the Columbia river which he described as "a very fine facility" where "virtually nothing would have to be spent" to make it usable.

The House subcommittee headed by Rep. Mike Kirwan (D-Ohio) refused to approve the request. The Senate voted to give the Bureau of Mines half what it sought, but the House refused to compromise with a nickel for the program. So it had to be dropped from the budget last month.

Or take the case of the Geological Survey, another old line agency which in the past has been limited to surveying the geology of the U.S. land mass for mineral riches. Kennedy's Inter-agency Committee on Oceanography assigned it the new task of making geological and geophysical

maps of the continental shelves, which cover about a million square miles, equivalent to the combined area of California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

Congress last year gave Geological Survey about \$500,000 to start this project on the Atlantic coast. This year the agency asked for an increase to \$1,304,000, part of which was for a new Pacific coast lab. Kirwan's subcommittee approved everything but the request for the new west coast lab, but the Senate refused to approve any increase at all, so the status quo was maintained.

The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, which has been deeply involved in oceanographic work for some years, asked for \$16.9 million to finance its expanding program of research, ship construction, laboratories and new equipment. This was a modest increase in its \$15.3 million oceanography budget for 1963.

The House slashed some \$4 million from this request by deleting funds for a new research ship to be used to explore the salmon, fur seal and king crab of the North Pacific and Bering Sea, as well as a new shellfish lab at Millford, Conn. The Senate restored \$2,650,000 for the new Pacific ship and the House later went along. But the result is that the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries fell \$2 million short of its projected budget, or with less money than it got last year for oceanography.

Other civilian agencies, whose appropriations are still under scrutiny in Congress, await the ax. The agency with most at stake is the National Science Foundation. Next to the Navy, it has the largest budget for oceanography -

\$25.8 million, a 42 per cent boost over its \$18.1 million budget for last year.

The Foundation, a federal agency, doesn't perform any oceanographic work itself but parcels out grants to universities and private research institutes for ships, labs and other equipment. Last year it gave \$6 million for vessels, shore facilities and buoy systems. Among its beneficiaries were Oregon State and Johns Hopkins universities, Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, which got money for new laboratory buildings.

If Congress appropriates the funds, this year the foundation plans to make grants for expanded efforts in bathymetric investigations, age determination of marine sedimentary deposits, paleotemperature studies, sediment distribution and drilling operations, organic and inorganic geochemistry, sediment transport techniques and seismic, gravity and geothermal investigations.

Next largest civilian budget item for oceanography is \$24.5 million for the Coast and Geodetic Survey of the Commerce Department which has two new ships expected for delivery later this year and a third next year. They will be assigned to conduct ocean surveys in the North Pacific, current studies between the subarctic and central Pacific water masses, and Atlantic coastal charting and continental shelf surveys.

The Public Health Service wants \$4,770,000, chiefly for research on the effect of domestic and industrial waste disposal in marine environments. Some of this money goes into grants for academic institutions to conduct re-

search and train marine scientists.

The Atomic Energy Commission asked for \$5.3 million for research on the diffusion and concentration resulting from deposit of radioactive materials in the ocean and their biological effects on marine organisms.

The Smithsonian Institution, budgeted for \$331,000, wants to be capable of handling the great quantities of marine specimens which the oceanographic program will produce. It has established a national storing center at its Museum for Natural History in Washington to collect and process these specimens.

The Weather Bureau wants \$183,000 to place meteorological technicians aboard seven oceanographic vessels operating in all three oceans. The Maritime Administration wants \$50,000 to study the effect of waves on ship design. The Army's Corps of Engineers plans to study the movements of beach sands and the general problem of beach erosion caused by waves generated by large storms. There is even an effort to reduce barnacles and other marine organisms which foul the hulls

of ships.

Much oceanography research is demonstrably practical. But compared to outer space exploration, oceanography is a plain little step-child that receives less generous treatment than does its more glamorous sister program from members of Congress. (Next - Farming fish like cows.)

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MISS PHOTOGENIC—Barbara Ellen Baker, 18, Miss Texas, beams proudly as she shows the Miss American Photogenic trophy she won at the Miss International Beauty Congress in Long Beach, Calif. (UPI)

## Fraud Charged in Mortgage Shift At Bend Hotel

Portland - The government has filed a complaint against owners of the Pilot Butte Inn in Bend charging a fraudulent mortgage transfer.

The lengthy complaint, filed in Federal Court, claimed that William and Gertrude Corbett paid off a \$279,000 mortgage in December of 1955 and then had a false mortgage assigned to a company set up to defeat government liens. The complaint alleged that when the government attempted to foreclose on the liens, the company, Dickerson, Inc., moved in and claimed prior right under the mortgage.

The government charged that as a result of the mortgage transaction a fraud was perpetrated on it and the Deschutes County Circuit Court which foreclosed on the alleged mortgage Nov. 12, 1958.

**Title Transferred**

The government also alleged the Corbetts transferred title of the Inn to their five children to defeat taxes.

The complaint asked the Federal Court to set aside all property transfers; set aside the Deschutes court decree, and to foreclose on the unpaid balance of the federal tax liens. The government said liens amounted to about \$300,000 when placed in 1955. The complaint claimed the unpaid balance amount to \$132,442.

The complaint also asked a preliminary injunction restraining any further property transfers pending disposition of the case. Federal Judge William East set a hearing for Aug. 26.

## Princess Anne Now 13 Years Old

London - (UPI) - Princess Anne, who leaves home soon for boarding school, stepped into the teen-age world today with a 13th birthday party aboard the royal yacht Bloodhound.

The princess awoke to find the vessel under way for Aberdeen, Scotland, from where she will go to Balmoral to spend her summer vacation with her mother, Queen Elizabeth.

Prince Philip and Prince Charles, the 14-year-old heir to the throne, opened the princess's day with a shipboard rendition of "Happy Birthday to You."

The slim, blonde-haired Anne won't have her "real party" until she reaches Balmoral and is reunited with her mother, a Buckingham Palace spokesman said.

Anne reports to Beneden, a private boarding school, Sept. 20.

## Animal Scientists Give Seven Awards

Corvallis - (UPI) - Seven animal scientists, research workers and teachers were honored here Wednesday evening at the closing banquet of the American Society of Animal Scientists.

Dr. Lorin E. Harris of Utah State University was the recipient of a \$2,000 award for notable research.

Six men were presented \$1,000 awards. Honored in their individual fields were Davis L. MacIntosh of Kansas State University, Dr. Ralph Bogart of Oregon State, Dr. Albert Pearson of Michigan State University, Dr. Harold Cole of the University of California at Davis, Dr. Glen P. Lofgreen of the University of California, and Richard C. Miller of the University of Kentucky.

The group concludes its 53th annual convention today.

## SIGNS NUCLEAR TREATY—Nicaraguan Ambassador

Washington - (UPI) - Nicaraguan Ambassador Sevilla-Sacasa signs the nuclear test ban treaty on behalf of his government at the State Department in Washington. Looking on are, left, William C. Foster, director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and right, Angier B. Luke, State Department chief of protocol. (UPI)



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