

## National Science Foundation Makes Educational Grant to Washington Academy of Sciences

The National Science Foundation has made a grant of \$32,250 to the WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES to conduct a several-faceted program in science education. This a part of a half-million dollar program of grants to 17 State academies and similar organizations to strengthen their educational activities.

The ACADEMY'S program consists of four projects, which may be summarized as follows: To establish a community consultation service; to participate in curricular experiments integrating instruction in science and mathematics; and to organize round-table discussions among secondary school teachers, college instructors, and local scientists. The program is under the supervision of the Joint Board on Science Education, which will administer and coordinate all its phases.

With reference to the consultation service, a central office will be established, with appropriate files to catalogue the scientific resources of the community. This file in the hands of a trained clerk will serve as a means for making these resources readily available to the various schools. The round-table discussions will be designed to create a better liaison between teachers, in both secondary schools and colleges, with local scientists in the several scientific disciplines.

The curricular experiments will be conducted at both elementary and secondary school levels. Their objective will be to explore to what extent instruction in science and in mathematics may be coordinated to complement and supplement each other. Four public and two private schools in the local area have indicated their intention to participate in this program and conduct experimental courses. The grant makes it possible to reimburse these cooperators for direct costs incurred by their participation in the program.

Dr. John K. Taylor, of the National Bureau of Standards, has been named as director of the program and as such will have general responsi-

bility for its total operation. Dr. Taylor has had a long and continuing interest in science education and has been a member of the Joint Board on Science Education since its inception in 1955. Dr. William T. Read, recently retired as scientific adviser to the Department of Defense, will be retained as executive secretary. In this capacity he will be responsible for administration and implementation of the program. Dr. Read was one of the leaders in the cooperative effort by the D. C. Council of Architectural and Engineering Societies and the WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES to coordinate the educational activities of the local technical societies which resulted in the formation of the School Contacts program and finally the Joint Board on Science Education. Dr. Read has also other extensive educational experience and is a former dean of the School of Chemical Engineering at Rutgers University.

The Joint Board has appointed special advisory committees to give technical assistance to the participants in the projects. Thirty distinguished scientists representing the disciplines of biology, chemistry, physics, engineering, mathematics, and geology, and affiliated with the major scientific and educational institutions of the area, will work in cooperation with the Joint Board's Curriculum Committee to this end. Dr. Raymond J. Seeger is chairman of this latter committee.

The program will have its headquarters in the office of the Academy at 1530 P Street, NW., Washington 6, D. C. The telephone number is ADams 4-5323. One of its projects is concerned with the establishment of a roster of scientists who can assist school teachers and their students by speaking to science clubs, consulting on science projects, and performing related activities. Dr. Read would be glad to hear from all who are interested in participating in this aspect of the program.