



August 4, 1978

Volume I, No. 3

L'BRARY
OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

Peterson Awarded Sigma Xi's 1978 Procter Prize

Sigma Xi, along with its affiliate, the Scientific Research Society of North America, has announced they will award the esteemed Procter Prize to Director **Russell Peterson**. The prize consists of a certificate of recognition for scientific achievement and a cash award of \$1,000.

Peterson will receive the 1978 prize at the Society's annual meeting October 28 at Myrtle Beach, S.C. He will address the meeting following presentation of the prize.

Some previous winners of the Procter Prize include Vannevar Bush, Athelstan Spilhaus, Margaret Mead, Jacob Goldman, Abel Wolman, Dixie Lee Ray, and Lewis Branscomb.

Board, Council Meeting Notes

At its July 25 meeting, the OTA Board appointed Dr. James Fletcher, former administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and reappointed Drs. Jerome Wiesner and Frederick Robbins to the Technology Assessment Advisory Council.

Currently professor of technology and energy resources at the University of Pittsburgh, Fletcher headed NASA from 1971 to 1977. Before that, he served as president of the University of Utah from 1964 to 1972. He has also held numerous management positions in the aerospace industry. Fletcher succeeds Dr. Eugene Odum on the Advisory Council, who resigned.

Wiesner and Robbins had been appointed to 6-month interim terms in February while the Board considered procedures and candidates for appointment to the Council.

The Council, at its July 20 meeting, continued its discussion of issues for OTA's priority list. Presentations of issues for consideration were made by Council members J. Fred Bucy, Hazel Henderson, and J.M. Leathers, while Ronald Davenport discussed OTA priorities in general.

The next scheduled Board meeting, which is to be held jointly with the Advisory Council, is set for September 18. Consideration of priorities for future OTA assessments will be the focus of that meeting.

Second Division Director Appointed

Dr. Joyce Lashof has been appointed assistant director for human resources, OTA Director **Russell Peterson** announced July 21. Lashof will head the Office's food and health programs. She will begin work at OTA September 8.

Currently a Senior Scholar in Residence at the Institute of Medicine, Lashof was formerly the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health at the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Prior to that, she headed the Illinois State Department of Public Health from 1973 to 1977. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Duke University, Lashof earned her M.D. from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania. She was a professor of preventive medicine and community health at the University of Illinois and ran a community health center in Chicago.

Dr. Lashof is the second of three assistant directors who are to be appointed to head program divisions within the Office. Lionel S. (Skip) Johns was the first to be named, being promoted from manager of OTA's energy program.

Earlier, Peterson announced the appointment of Dr. H. David Banta as the group manager for health. A former OTA staff member and project leader for the CT scanner study, Banta will take over from Gretchen Kolsrud, who has been acting group manager. He will assume his new responsibilities September 1. Kolsrud will return full time to her responsibilities in emerging technologies.

OTA Study Cited:

House Agriculture Committee Asks FDA to Delay Ban of Feed Additives

The House Committee on Agriculture passed a resolution July 14 urging the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to await completion of scientific studies before making a final decision on a proposed regulation to control the use of certain drugs as additives in livestock feeds. The proposed FDA regulation would cut the use of penicillin, tetracycline, and other antibiotic drugs in livestock and poultry feeds.

In the press release announcing the resolution, the Committee cited an OTA assessment of livestock feeds along with similar studies being conducted by the National Academy of Sciences and the Department of Agriculture. The OTA study is identifying acceptable levels of benefits and risks in livestock additives, as well as the options available to Congress for improved regulation of drug additives.

Recently Published OTA Reports

Six new reports have been released in the past 8 weeks, including the first reports to be published by the R&D program.

(To help persons outside OTA obtain these reports, which are available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, the GPO stock number and price are given in parenthesis in the following listing of reports.)

Renewable Ocean Energy Sources: Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion, examines technologies for exploiting the temperature differences between water at the ocean's surface and that in its depths to produce energy. (GPO No. 052-003-00536-1; price \$2.20.)

Applications of Solar Technology to Today's Energy Needs, evaluates a variety of technologies for onsite solar energy production and assesses their impacts on society and the environment as well as economic factors. (GPO No. 052-003-00539-5; price \$7.00.)

The R&D program's first report, **Applications of R&D in the Civil Sector**, considers agreements between Federal and non-Federal parties for cooperative R&D ventures, particularly in light of the upcoming report on the subject by the Office of Management and Budget. (GPO No. 052-003-00545-0; price \$2.30.)

The second R&D report, **The Role of Demonstrations in Federal R&D Policy**, examines the use of demonstrations to promote innovations or influence policy in Federal R&D projects. (GPO No. 052-003-00557-3; price \$2.50.)

The draft report on access to mineral and other natural resources in Alaska was released to Congress in June. The report examines Federal laws, regulations, and policies governing access across Federal lands to nonfederally owned lands.

The transportation program has made its draft report, **An Analysis of Urban Transit Vehicle Development and Demonstration Programs**, available to Congress. The report examines three R&D projects undertaken by UMTA—Transbus, State-of-the-Art Car (SOAC), and Advanced Concept Train (ACT).

Appearances

Governor Peterson was the keynote speaker at the 5th Annual National Materials Policy Conference in Henniker, NH, on July 31. The title of his speech was "National Materials Policy as Seen in '78."

Governor Peterson will participate in two workshops sponsored by the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies. The first workshop is entitled "Technology Choices and Society's Future." The concern of the workshop is potential impact of emerging technologies. The second workshop will be on "Planning for Science and Technology in Development."

On June 29th, **Deputy Director Dan De Simone**, accompanied by Joe Coates, testified before the Subcommittee on Legislation and National Security of the House Government Operations Committee. He presented a summary of OTA's analysis of criteria for evaluating President Carter's reorganization plan for emergency preparedness and response.

Mr. De Simone was a member of a U.S. delegation of Government and industry officials who inspected 16 industrial plants throughout Japan from July 3-14 to evaluate their capabilities for computer-controlled manufacturing.

Henry Kelly briefed House staff members on OTA's solar report findings on July 27. A similar briefing for Senate staffers will take place in August.

As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Food Safety Council, J.B. Cordaro attended a Council meeting to establish a new method of determining safety of food ingredients. . . . J.B. and Cathy Woteki presented an overview of OTA and Food activities at the 38th Annual Meeting of the Institute of Food Technologies in Dallas. . . . J.B. also presented a paper entitled "Food Program Functions of the OTA," at the 82nd annual conference of Food and Drug Officials.

Joe Coates spoke on "Technological Change and the Future Growth of America," on June 28th at NASA's Profiles of the Future colloquium series.

Solar Report Technical Volume Due

Volume II of OTA's *Applications of Solar Technology to Today's Energy Needs* is due to be published in September.

Volume II is the technical back-up to the first volume, which was delivered to Congress and made publicly available in June. The first part of the report presented technical and economic overviews, analyzed a wide range of impacts, and presented various policy options. Volume II consists of six chapters:

Chapter I, "Analytical Methods," describes in detail how the economic and financial analyses and comparisons were done, including a primer on life-cycle costing. This chapter also describes the financial perspectives of, and capital sources available to several possible owners, such as homeowners, corporations, and utilities.

Chapter II, "Current and Projected Fuel Costs," discusses the assumptions made about present and future prices of oil, gas, coal, and electricity to small and large users in four areas of the country.

Chapter III, "Calculation of Backup Requirements," describes the computer programs which simulate the performance of solar and nonsolar energy equipment.

Chapter IV, "Results of the Systems Analysis," contains the results of over 600 comparisons which were simulated on the computer.

Chapter V, "Assumptions Made in the Systems Analysis."

Chapter VI, "A Detailed Analysis of the Impact of Onsite Equipment on Utility Costs."

Kolsrud Examines Emerging Technologies in Health

Gretchen Kolsrud, acting group manager for health, travelled to California last month to gather background information for a possible OTA assessment of new and emerging health technologies. Biofeedback, autogenics and various techniques are thought by some to hold promise for treatment of stress and the chronic degenerative diseases which afflict so many in the U.S. population. Gretchen interviewed a broad range of practitioners and theoreticians in this new field.

Subjects discussed include the relationships between emerging technologies and more Western medical practices, shifting public values in health and disease, as well as the scope and issues with which an OTA assessment might deal.

PROFILES—who we are

OTA is filled with people who possess not only keen but often multifaceted talents. To help us to know one another better, the newsletter will run brief sketches of people.

TOM COTTON

Background: B.S. in Electrical Engineering, Stanford. B.A. and M.A. Philosophy, Politics, and Economics from Oxford. Rhodes Scholar. Ph.D. expected in September from Stanford: Engineering-Economic Systems. Worked 1969-71 at the Appalachian Regional Commission—joint Federal-State effort to promote development in Appalachia.

Family: Single... "no pets and no plants." (Recently killed a plant. Dauntlessly plans to buy more.)

Roots: Born and raised in Dallas, Tex.

How He Came to OTA: Joined Senator Hollings staff 4 years ago while pre-doctoral student, as part of Ford Fellowship program. While working there, became involved with OTA and "got sucked in."

Interests: Plays flamenco and Spanish guitar. Occasionally does professional shows with flamenco dancers.

On Life in Washington: Likes DC for "the cultural life and its not too full of Yankees." Dislikes: the climate, "company-town atmosphere," "too many lawyers."

Worst Recent Experience: Finishing dissertation and buying and moving into a house at same time.

Best Recent Experience: Two-week vacation in mid-East immediately following.

LINDA McCRAY

How She Came to OTA: Last summer, from GAO.

Roots: Born and raised on a tobacco and cotton farm in North Carolina, now lives with husband David, two children (10 and 4), in Forrestville, Md.

Interests: Avid swimmer, plays tennis, and baseball... sidelined by a car accident May 25. A devotee of music, all types: ("I really dig 'Saturday Night Fever.' John Travolta really turns me on.")

Education: Attends Prince George's County Community College at night, taking business administration courses. Views education as a means to broaden outlook as well as gain professional advancement.

Outside Activities: President of club that buys gift certificates for food from grocery stores and gives to needy families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. ("My family was fortunate. We always had plenty of food. I want to help those who haven't been so fortunate.")

Outlook on Life: Smiling, talkative, wants to help others in any way. ("I like people. It doesn't cost anything to be friendly. I enjoy the direct contact I get with people here.")

JOHN YOUNG

Recent Accomplishment: The recently completed R&D reports—on Cooperative Agreements, and R&D Demonstrations.

Background: Ph.D. in physics from U-Cal. (Berkeley), in the physics of biopolymers. Research in theoretical chemistry, plant physiology, and biochemistry. B.S. in chemistry, University of Illinois. Also was active environmentalist in Wisconsin, ("I was a leading highway fighter..."), founding member of the Wisconsin Coalition for Balanced Transportation.

How He Came to OTA: Two years ago from Senate Commerce Committee, where he'd been an American Physical Society Fellow. Before that, University of Wisconsin faculty.

Roots: Native of Illinois, born in Pekin... "the home of Everett Dirksen, Karo Syrup and Hiram Walker—all of a kind" ...was raised in Glencoe.

Interests: Camping, hiking, outdoors. "...Haven't done near enough lately." Also a jogger.

Family: Wife, Pasqualina, two sons, ages 10 and 13. Lives in Reston, Va.

On Life in Washington: "Interesting place to work but a lousy place to live."

Personals

New Arrivals: Sandra Hecker has been appointed to a 6-month position as a library assistant. She started in June.... Claudia Sanders has joined the Health Group as a consultant for the pneumococcal study.... R&D welcomes back Claudia Hanes.... Chuck Barry, a former NBC correspondent, is working with J.B. Cordaro and Chuck Wixom to develop a communications plan for the release of three food reports.... Bill Giese, (pronounced Ghee-zee), previously a writer with the Philadelphia Enquirer, has joined Oceans to edit reports.

Farewells: Darryl Banks of R&D has joined forces with EPA. Marshall Peterson has returned to the Geological Survey.... Mary Margaret Puglisi of Health accepted a position in Rep. Brademas' office.... R&D's Dorothy Poole left OTA in July.... Mona Chick, the darling of Materials, departed to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee.

Transition: Judith Angerman has been named Coordinator, Advisory Activities, and will be working for Tom McGurn.

NOTE: The Personnel Office will be posting notices of in-house vacancies in the employee's lounge.

* * *

Debra Mears, previously with the Food Group, is being married August 5 to Tom Dowell, the IBM representative who serviced Food's typewriters in their old House Annex offices.

Geraldine Duskie of R&D had a baby on June 8. His name is Andrew Scott.

(continued on p. 4)

Personals (continued from p. 3)

This is your last chance to get in on the original tennis ladder: Clyde Behney reports there are about 15 hopefuls listed.

If anyone is interested in joining an exercise class, Rose Grozak would like to organize such a group. She has suggested using the Royal Canadian Air Force Exercises. They take only 10 to 12 minutes and don't make your muscles sore.

Sheila Patterson, our lady of the service center, was the number one draft choice from Washington by the Women's Professional Basketball league. She hopes to sign a contract with the Washington team in September. This is the WPBL's first season, which will start in December.

Jack Burby, consultant-writer for the energy and oceans programs, has left OTA to join the staff of the *Los Angeles Times* in L.A. His assignment is writing editorials on California issues.

Bill Richardson, coal consultant to the Materials group, will visit England at his own expense in early August. He's been invited to present a paper to the National Coal Board and expects to visit mines and plants in England and Scotland.

Admin Items

The black and white video tape recorder is set-up for use in Conference Room 5B. . . . We will be obtaining soon a snack dispenser for the employee's lounge. (Remember Old Immigration's plastic palace?). . . .

As of August 1, we have a new cleaning contractor. . . .

The first floor conference rooms now have a sound system in operation. . . .

Jim Tolson reminds everyone to turn in request forms for meeting room services as soon as they plan to use the conference rooms!

Library Notes

Robin Johnson and Martha Dexter now have access to "Legis," the computer system for delivering legislative histories. Robin told us they have received many requests, and people are very pleased with the information they are receiving from this system. Anyone can be trained to use the machine. If you are interested, contact Robin; she will give you the name of the instructor to call.

[Note: In our first issue, we solicited views and opinions of OTA people for a "forum." This letter is the first submission in response to that invitation. Space limitations prevented publication before now.]

OTA Wrestles With Technology

May 30, 1978

On April 21, the *Wall Street Journal* ran an article comparing OTA with the highly respected Congressional Research Service. The article also quoted critics as saying the Office too readily undertook studies of only " fleeting or parochial interest." While there may be some truth to the criticism, the subjects of these studies are often viewed by influential members of the body politic as important and in need of attention. Consequently, a broad representation of interest should be heard from during OTA's deliberations on potential assessment topics.

In wrestling with which topics to assess, the value of the substantive breadth of an assessment and the potential utility of the final product to the 535 Members of Congress are two of many important criterion in the selection process. The former's importance is linked with the simple fact that the broader the topic to be assessed, the more difficult it becomes to present Congress with meaningful information. Regarding the latter, while OTA is still struggling to establish its identity before the Members of Congress as a viable research agency, the congressional utility of our reports becomes important.

In establishing OTA, Congress recognized its need for assistance in evaluating technology and technologically-related problems. This is true for problems Congress faces today as well as those it might face in the future. As we all realize, the decisions Congress and the executive branch make today can have significant impact on our society and the world for years, if not decades, to come. Of the four research agencies, OTA can best analyze technological issues and problems.

OTA should not ignore long-range and politically sensitive issues or emerging technologies. However, at this time the majority of topics to which OTA will devote its limited resources should reflect the criteria discussed above.

In the end OTA will be judged on the quality and the utility of its reports. This is how it should be. This judgment of OTA will depend considerably on the issues and technologies our Office chooses to address.

Bob Smith
Food Group

Softball—Bats Boom, Calls Assist

After a shaky start, in which OTA's Juggernauts took some shots on the chin and dropped four of their first five games, the team has rallied in recent weeks to notch five victories in the last six games. The winning streak brings OTA's overall record this season to 7-6, and 6-4 in Senate League play.

Most recently, OTA defeated a spirited team from Sen. Inouye's office by 14-6. The game featured fine defensive play on the left side of the infield by Jim Leach and Roby Burke, as well as a disputed call by Jeff ("I calls 'em the way ah sees 'em") Cohn. The call involved a fly ball down the right field line which Cohn, never known for great vision, called fair. Two runs scored on the play.

In earlier games, the Juggernauts trounced teams representing Sens.

Nelson and Roth by scores of 22-12 and 26-3 respectively. In both games, Debi Chertok reached third base. In the former game, Officer "Boom-Boom" Rudd slugged the first grand slam homerun in OTA's softball history. Some have suggested that an OTA athletics hall of fame be established on the sixth floor and that Boom-Boom be the first person inducted. So far Rudd has resisted that suggestion.

Two games have been added to the softball schedule. Because of a mixup in scheduling, the game against Sen. Morgan's team has been rescheduled for Tuesday, September 5, at OTA's home field. Also, a nonleague game against a team from McGraw-Hill has been set for Monday, August 14, at the Washington Monument.