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National Science Foundation News: NSF Established R&D Incentives, Assessment Offices; Smith and Lederman Appointed Directors

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION NEWS

NSF Established R&D Incentives, Assessment Offices; Smith and Lederman Appointed Directors

Dr. H. Guyford Stever, Director of the National Science Foundation, today helped implement President's Nixon's call for new actions and relationships to enhance research and development in the United States by establishing the Office of Experimental R&D Incentives and the National R&D Assessment Program Office.

He appointed Mr. C. B. Smith as Director of the Incentives Office and Mr. Leonard L. Lederman as Director of the Assessment Office.

Mr. Smith comes to NSF from the Corporate Technical Staff of United Aircraft Corporation. In his new position he will be responsible for an experimental program aimed at determining how the government can most effectively accelerate the transfer of new technology into productive enterprise.

Primary objectives of the new $18.5 million NSF Incentives Program are to:

1. Test the effectiveness of Federal incentives in stimulating the innovation process;
2. Stimulate non-Federal investment in R&D;
3. Accelerate R&D application toward the improvement of products, processes, and services; and;
4. Develop new and more effective cooperative research efforts involving universities, industries, and Government.

Mr. Lederman was formerly Deputy Director and Acting Director of Exploratory Research and Problem Assessment, Research Applications, at NSF. In his new position he will be responsible for a program designed to make studies and assessments of how science and technology contribute to the achievement of national goals and objectives, including improvements in the quality of life, job creation, and economic growth.

Closely related to the Foundation's Experimental R&D Incentives effort, the $2 million Assessment Program will focus its efforts on studies including:

1. Analysis of data on national R&D trends and forecasting.
2. Analysis of the processes of invention, innovation, and diffusion of new technologies.
3. The public and private rates of return from R&D; and how R&D is related to more efficient utilization of resources, employment opportunities, productivity and foreign trade balance.
4. The potential contributions and costs of science and technology in society.
5. The impact of Federal legislation and regulation on the use of science and technology and on the innovative process.
6. The relative impact of Federal and private R&D investment on innovation and economic growth.

Both Mr. Smith and Mr. Lederman will report to Dr. Raymond L. Bisplinghoff, Deputy Director of NSF.

Born in New York City in 1919, Mr. Smith received his B.S. degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his M.S. degree from the University of Connecticut.

In the course of 25 years at United Aircraft Corporation, he served as Chief of Aerodynamics at UAC's Research Laboratories and as a Project Engineer in its Hamilton and Pratt & Whitney Divisions. A pioneer and early author on the subject of supersonic aerodynamics, Mr. Smith was project engineer in the development of Hamilton Standard's supersonic propeller and in Pratt & Whitney's initial exploratory rocket propulsion work. In 1958 he was appointed to the UAC Chief Scientist and Vice President.

In 1966 he moved to Washington to serve two years as Special Assistant for Propulsion Technology in the Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, DOD, and in 1971, returned to Washington for one year as Vice Chairman of the R&D Study Group of the Commission on Government Procurement.

Mr. Smith has served on the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, the NASA Advisory Committee on Rocket Propulsion, and as a consultant to the DOD Defense Science Board.

He helped organize the Hartford Graduate Center of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and has taught there since its organization in 1955.

Mr. Lederman was born in New York City in 1931. He received his B.A. degree from the College of the City of New York, and his M.A. from New York University.

Following service in research capacities with several manufacturing firms, he joined the Chamber of Commerce of the United States as Assistant Manager, Department of Manufacture.

Mr. Lederman joined the staff of the Director of the Columbus Laboratories of the Battelle Memorial Institute where he was Senior Research Advisor in charge of Federal Budget and Economic Studies. He served in the Washington, D. C. offices of Battelle from 1963 to 1970 and conducted and participated in a number of research projects related to R&D in various fields. Mr. Lederman joined the NSF staff in 1970 as Deputy Head, Office of Ecnomic and Manpower Studies.

Mr. Lederman served as a Consultant and Coordinator to the President's Task Force on Highway Safety and as Executive Secretary on Public Engineering Policy Task Force on Roles of the Federal Government in Applied Research.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN NEWS

Scientists tend to be cold, unemotional people. They cannot appreciate the beauty of nature, and scientific truths once established never change--true or false?

These are a few of the popular stereotypes a recent University of Wisconsin-Madison survey tested.

Professor Robert Siegfried, chairman of the history of science department and designer of the survey, was pleased with the results.

In questioning more than 200 upper classmen, he found few students who believed in the stereotypes of the cold, quasi-human scientists or the absoluteness of science.

Two of every three participants felt that -- contrary to what some literary works might imply -- a scientific understanding of nature enhances an individual's appreciation of its beauty.

Other results showed:

An awareness that the scientific method is not an automatic way of obtaining new truths about nature, and that a man or woman does not have to eliminate personal beliefs to be a creative scientist.

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