PROPOSED 1957 BUDGET PRESENTED

An increase of 28 percent over the total NIH appropriations for the current fiscal year was recommended by the President when he presented his Health Message to Congress on January 27.

The proposed NIH budget for fiscal year 1957 requested $126.5 million as compared with $99 million in 1956. The President's message stated that substantial increases in Federal funds for medical research should be provided. He cited the dramatic medical progress of recent years and urged the expansion of fundamental research in order to "bring into better balance the total medical research effort."

In making these recommendations, the President’s message stated: "as a Nation, we must now take further steps to improve the health of the people....The important role of the Federal Government is to provide assistance without interference in personal, local or State responsibilities."

The program presented would provide funds as follows: for cancer $32,437,000, heart disease $22,106,000, mental health $21,749,000, arthritis and metabolic diseases $13,345,000, neurological diseases and blindness $12,196,000, allergy and infectious diseases $9,799,000, dental research $2,971,000, and $11,922,000 for the general research programs of NIH.

The major share of the increased funds recommended ($18 million) would be for research grants to medical schools, hospitals, and other private laboratories. Other program increases requested are for research fellowships ($1.5 million), training programs ($2.3 million), NIH research ($2.4 million), field investigations ($2.5 million), and Biologics Standards ($400,000).

SEBRELL PORTRAIT PRESENTED

Wilson Hall was filled on January 31 when NIH employees gathered to witness the presentation of Dr. Henry Sebrell's portrait. Dr. Floyd S. Daft, Director of NIAMD, made the presentation on behalf of NIH employees, and Dr. James A. Shannon, NIH Director, received the portrait to be hung in Wilson Hall.

Dr. Sebrell, former NIH Director, who retired last fall, addressed the group and told them of his current work with the American Cancer Society, for whom he is visiting medical schools and research organizations in order to appraise their cancer research programs.

Funds for the portrait, which was painted by Bjorn Egeli, well-known artist, were contributed by NIH employees in honor of Dr. Sebrell. Mr. Egeli, Dr. R. E. Dyer, Mrs. Luke Wilson, Dr. Louis Pillemer, and Mrs. Sebrell were also present.

NMI NAMED NIAID; STUDIES ADDED

A major expansion in the research program of NMI, bringing about a change of name for the Institute, was recently announced by Surgeon General Leonard A. Scheele. The National Microbiological Institute will encompass extensive research in the field of allergy, and will now be known as the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

"The renaming of the Institute," the Surgeon General said, "reflects the importance of a new research program on allergy and the close relationship of such research with the study of infectious diseases. Investigations of allergy are closely allied to the science of immunology, which is also fundamental to investigation of the infectious and parasitic diseases in which the Institute has long distinguished itself."

The Surgeon General has also authorized establishment of a National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council, to make recommendations on grant and training activities in these areas. These activities were formerly the responsibility of the National Advisory Health Council, which served in a dual capacity in advising the Surgeon General concerning grants on infectious diseases as well as in general areas of research and public health.

It is estimated that 50 percent of all people experience some manifestation of allergy at some time in their lives.

Holiday

NIH will be closed for business Wednesday, February 22, in observance of George Washington's birthday.
New Metabolite Developed

No. 156 in a Series

Work carried out in NHI has led to discovery of a new drug that may be superior to chlorpromazine, valuable in the treatment of the mentally ill. The work was done by Dr. Norman P. Salzman, NIAID, and Dr. Neil C. Moran and Dr. Bernard B. Brodie, NHI.

The discovery was made while testing the urine of dogs that had been injected with chlorpromazine. The new chlorpromazine derivative is known as chlorpromazine sulfoxide and appears in the urine of humans as well as in animals following administration of chlorpromazine. It seems to exert the same tranquilizing effects that have made the parent drug so valuable in treatment of excited mental patients.

Chlorpromazine, though valuable, has some drawbacks which animal experiments suggest the new drug does not have. In some instances, chlorpromazone produces postural hypotension -- a dip in blood pressure that causes a dizzy spell when the patient shifts from a lying to a sitting or standing position. Although not dangerous, chlorpromazine is somewhat objectionable if patients must take the drug for a long time.

Animal experiments made by the scientists comparing the two compounds indicate that the new sulfoxide may be effective without producing postural hypotension. Dogs were given enough of either compound to produce the same sedative effects and then were tilted vertically on a special table while blood pressures were recorded directly from a leg artery. The dip in blood pressure on tilting to vertical, very apparent in dogs given chlorpromazine, was comparatively lacking on blood pressure recordings from the dogs that had been given sulfoxide.

Clinical trials of the compound are being planned for human patients in the hope that it will be effective in treatment of the mentally ill without the undesirable effects of the parent drug.

Chlorpromazine itself, developed by workers in France, produces a state of indifference to the causes of anxiety, whether real or imaginary. With the aid of this drug, many suffers from mental illness have been brought within reach of psychiatric help. Chlorpromazine, reserpine, and other tranquilizing agents are helping to minimize the use of restraining devices in mental hospitals.

Credit Union Elects Officers

Credit Union members elected officers and voted a 4 percent dividend on 1955 savings at a meeting held January 23.

New officers are John E. Fitzgerald, president; Dr. Francis A. Arnold, Jr., vice president; John A. Beglin, treasurer; and Mildred F. Gettings, secretary. Other board members are Dr. G. Robert Coatseney, Chaplain William R. Andrew, and Walter H. Magruder.

Members of the Credit Committee are Catherine V. Porter, Geneva L. Garner, Eileen F. Kenny, Ralph F. Salmon, James B. Black. Supervisory Committee members are Francis L. Mills, Phyllis Hannah, and Richard L. Hopkins.

The $25 Savings Bond door prize was won by Herman Micheliich.
EMPLOYEE HEALTH NOTES

Since 2,700 lives were lost due to accidental poisoning and gas exposure last year in the United States alone, it is wise to pause long enough to take some precautions which will guard you and your family from these types of accidents. A recent Food and Drug Administration bulletin on the subject is available in the Employee Health Unit, Building 10. This is a valuable guide for posting in your medicine chest.

Here are a few of the safety measures the pamphlet recommends: Lock up all dangerous substances. Do not store poisonous or inflammable substances (kerosene, gasoline, rat poisons, etc.) in food and beverage containers. Read all labels and carefully follow "caution" statements and be sure all poisons are clearly marked.

When you throw away drugs or hazardous materials, be sure the contents cannot be reached by children or pets. Use cleaning fluids with adequate ventilation only and avoid breathing vapors. Protect your skin and eyes when using insect poisons, weed killers, solvents, and cleaning agents.

Do not take or give medicine in the dark. Do not take medicine from an unlabeled bottle: transparent tape over the label will protect it. Date all drug supplies when you buy them and weed out the leftovers from your medicine chest. Use a prescription only for the patient for whom the physician ordered it.

Mrs. York Dies Suddenly

On January 30 Mrs. Mary Lou York, Administrative Assistant, LID-NMI, died suddenly. She joined NIH in 1941 as a senior typist and in 1942 became a personnel clerk and later was made payroll clerk. She then served as leave and payroll supervisor and in 1951 was made administrative assistant in NMI. Mrs. York resided at 4865 Bradley Lane, Bethesda, Md.

NIH Spotlight

We have heard the term "scientific method" increasingly in recent years. Here at NIH, in NIAMD, is a young man who is a true adherent to the scientific method, for he has spent his entire career in scientific work.

He is Charles E. Pierce, Physical Science Aid, who joined the Institute in 1942. His first years were spent in the pharmacology laboratory, and for almost ten years he worked on various aspects of the shock problem including traumatic and burn shock. He is now a part of a research team studying steroid metabolism. When visiting scientists come to NIH, he may be given the job of instructing them in methods of steroid metabolism, and often receives thank-you cards from scientists of far-off countries.

Charlie's most recent achievement is a new type of continuous extractor, which is believed to be more efficient and time-saving than the commercial extractors now available. He has made many other contributions of this nature, but feels that "it's all part of a day's work."

His main interest is in things scientific, but other than that, he claims himself "an outdoor man," taking two- to three-week camping trips each year in the Catskills, where he hunts big game such as bear and deer. His house is proof of his hunting prowess, as deer heads hang on the living room walls and bearskins cover the floors.

Only last year Charlie purchased a 50-acre farm near Sugar Loaf Mountain and began raising cattle, pigs, chickens and corn. He says he has no intentions of becoming a full-time farmer, but feels that the farm is the ideal place to raise his three youngsters, Johnny, 10, Sterleene, 6, and Larry, 2 months. He plans to build a lake sometime in the near future and stack it with fish and build diving boards for the children.

Charlie also journeys south to the coast of North Carolina for a few days each year to visit what he calls the "only real wilderness left on the East Coast." There, he and his friends fish, camp out, and live the life of real woodsmen, far from any signs of civilization.

Born in Atkins, Va., Charlie attended public schools and high school there and then came to Washington. After joining NIH he attended a one-year glassblowing course at the University of Maryland, and from 1948 to 1950 studied organic and inorganic chemistry at NIH.

R & W NOTES

An all-campus membership drive was launched on February 1 and will continue through February 15. It is hoped that the goal of 3,000 members will be reached by that time. A free Agent's card is being offered as a bonus for employees who join during the drive. Membership is only $1 for the entire year. Be sure to see your keyman and sign up for R & W membership.

On February 15 and 16 "Death of a Salesman," hit motion picture of 1951, is being offered by R & W in the CC Auditorium at 8:15 p.m. This is one of a series of pictures which will be held each month continuing through June. Tickets are sold for the entire series of six pictures and cost $2 for one person or $3 for two.

"The Sheriff," by James M. Arnold, a one-act play, will be presented on March 1 and 2 and an added attraction of "Hands Across the Sea" by Noel Coward. Tryouts for "Julius Caesar" were held on January 28, and the play will be presented March 15, 16, and 17, with a special matinee performance on March 17.
NEW APPOINTMENTS
IN NIAMD

Clair E. Lacey, former Assistant Personnel Officer, has been appointed NIAMD Administrative Officer, effective January 30. He replaces George Brandner, who recently transferred to the Cancer Chemotherapy National Service Center as Administrative Officer. Mr. Lacey will assist W. G. Baylis, NIAMD Executive Officer.

Mr. Lacey brings a background of general business administration to his new post, having served as superintendent of the Anthony, Kansas, school system. He has a special knowledge of Federal personnel procedures by virtue of service with the U.S. Civil Service Examiners, and in recent years has been successively Chief of Employment and Assistant Personnel Officer, NIH.

Ervin Liljegren, well-known at NIH as past president of R & W, has been appointed Administrative Assistant in NIAMD. Mr. Liljegren is a graduate of George Washington University and has had 14 years of laboratory training.

Join R & W NOW

GUARD OF THE MONTH

John F. Miller, Guard, who joined NIH last May, received recognition as "Guard of the Month" for February. Mr. Miller was chosen because of his outstanding performance of official duties and because he is alert, aggressive, polite, and considerate of his fellow employees, yet firm in enforcing regulations of NIH.

As an ardent football fan, John attends one Notre Dame game each year at South Bend, Indiana, and always makes sure he is on hand for the Navy-Notre Dame game.

Patients Welfare Receives $250

Eastern Star members recently donated $250 to the Patients Welfare Fund. Shown above at presentation ceremonies in the CC are (left to right) Robert Savard, Social Service Department; Mrs. Mildred Crosby, former patient; Mrs. Eleanor Davis, Eastern Star Worthy Matron; Dr. Pearce Bailey, Director, NINDB, and Arthur Brooks, Eastern Star Worthy Grand Master.

Parking Lot Fire

The NIH fire department was recently called to extinguish a fire in the back seat of a car parked on the lot between Buildings 2 and 4. Because there was no NIH tag on this car, the firemen were not able to notify the owner before breaking a window to get to the fire.

An NIH permit can save you dollars on many other occasions -- when your lights are left burning, your horn blowing, or your gas tank leaking, to mention a few. Application forms for your tags are available in the Personnel Branch, Room 21, Building 1.