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House Appropriations Committee Sets ESSA'S 1970 Budget at \$156,342,000

The House Appropriations Committee has provided a total of \$156,342,000 covering ESSA operations during Fiscal Year 1970. The amount is \$10,226,000 below the 1969 figure and \$5,517,000 less than the 1970 budget estimate.

The House-approved appropriation now goes to the Senate for consideration. Following are excerpts from the House group's report:

SALARIES AND EXPENSES - The sum of \$121,000,000 is included in the bill for this item. This amount, which is \$2,746,000 more than the appropriation for fiscal year 1969, will permit continuation of programs at the 1969 level plus some increases for the highest priority items of weather forecasts and warnings.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - The sum of \$24,000,000 is provided for expenses necessary for the conduct of research by the Environmental Science Services Administration. This is a reduction of \$1,505,000 from the budget estimate and is \$614,000 less than the amount appropriated for fiscal year 1969.

FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND CONSTRUCTION - The Committee recommends the appropriation of \$4,385,000 for facilities, equipment, and construction, which is \$766,000 less than the amount requested. The amount allowed will fund the following items:

Engineering support (Ship Construction Group)	\$ 150,000
Upper-air station relocation (Columbia, Mo. to Monett, Mo.).....	100,000
Inflation shelter relocation (St. Cloud, Minn.)	130,000
Construction of oceanographic and meteorological laboratory	2,500,000
Urban air pollution support units (5)	125,000
Housing construction (Cold Bay, Alaska)	435,000
Navigational chart production equipment (automation digitizers and display plotters)	60,000
Expand computer capacity (NMC)	300,000
Balloon inflation shelter improvement	85,000
Automation equipment for ships (MT MITCHELL, FAIRWEATHER, RAINIER)	<u>500,000</u>

Total \$4,385,000

SATELLITE OPERATIONS - The bill includes \$6,957,000 for expense necessary to observe environmental conditions from space satellites and for reporting and processing data obtained for use in environmental forecasting. This amount plus the carryover of prior year funds will be sufficient to maintain the existing program.

Project Stormfury to Begin 1969 Hurricane Experiments

Project Stormfury--an ESSA/U.S. Navy hurricane modification program--will begin its 1969 operations on Aug. 4 in an effort to achieve better understanding, improved prediction, and inquire into the possibility of modifying some aspects of these destructive tropical storms. In the modification experiments, hurricanes are bombarded with silver iodide and carefully measured to learn whether the seeding lessens the storms' violence. The areas in which seeding is now authorized permit experiments in the southwestern North Atlantic, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico, when the probability is 10 percent or less that the center of the treated hurricane will come within 50 miles of a populated area in the next 24 hours.

Since the program began in 1961, experiments have been performed on only two storms--Hurricane Esther in 1961, and Hurricane Beulah in 1963. Until 1967, seeding was restricted to an Atlantic area through which an average of less than one storm passes per year. The experimental area was expanded in 1967 and again in 1968, but for the first two times in 15 years no hurricane passed through the enlarged area.

From August 4 to October 15, Project scientists, aircraft, and flight crews will be on 48-hour alert for hurricane-seeding missions. As many as 16 ESSA, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Air Force planes will participate. The hurricane seeding experiment will be intensified this year, with clouds near the eye being seeded with silver iodide five times over an eight-hour period.

Two other experiments planned for the 1969 season are seeding of hurricane rainbands and of tropical cumulus cloud lines over the ocean.

Dr. Robert M. White, ESSA Administrator, and Captain E. T. Harding, U.S. Navy, Commander, Naval Weather Service Command, have overall responsibility for the joint program. Dr. R. Cecil Gentry, Director of the National Hurricane Research Laboratory, is Project Stormfury Director. Commander L. J. Underwood, U.S. Navy, Commanding Officer of the Fleet Weather Facility at Jacksonville, Fla., is Assistant Director of the Project and Navy Project Coordinator. Dr. Pierre Saint Amand is the Project Manager at the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, Calif., where the silver iodide pyrotechnic devices were designed and developed.

Nelson Awarded Department of Commerce Bronze Medal



Left to right: Theodore P. Gleiter, Assistant Administrator for Administration and Technical Services; Mr. Nelson; Dr. White, ESSA Administrator; and Edwin F. McCann, Chief, Administrative Operations Division.

Charles L. Nelson, chief of ESSA's General Services Branch, Administrative Operations Division, was awarded the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal by Dr. Robert M. White, ESSA Administrator, in a ceremony held July 24. Mr. Nelson, who has more than 38 years of service with the Weather Bureau and ESSA, received the award "for sustained superior accomplishments during more than 38 years of Federal service." He entered the Bureau in 1930 as a minor observer and progressed through a series of administrative assignments both in the states and the Philippines. He has successfully advised the agency in administrative relocations involving support services to all segments of ESSA in the areas of space management, travel, telephone service, motor vehicle management, real property management and claims.

Secretary Launches Commerce Suggestion Campaign

Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans has proclaimed the month of August as Special Suggestion Campaign month throughout the Department of Commerce and urges all employees to express their thoughts and ideas on new methods to increase the efficiency and promote economy in the Department. Employees submitting the best suggestions throughout the De-

partment during the campaign period will be recognized at the Department's Honor Awards Ceremony in October 1969. Suggestion forms may be obtained from your supervisors or from your Personnel Office. Washington-area employees may obtain suggestion forms or additional information by calling ESSA Personnel Office, Employee Relations Branch, Ext. 496-8105.

Four ESSA Appointments Announced; Capt. Darling To Head Office of Hydrography and Oceanography



Cdr. Tibbit



Mr. Smarz



Cdr. Tucker



Capt. Darling

Captain Robert C. Darling, ESSA Commissioned Officer and Director of the Coast Survey's Executive and Technical Services Staff, has been appointed Associate Director of the Coast Survey for Hydrography and Oceanography, effective July 28. Capt. Darling, a 26-year veteran of the Coast Survey, has seen duty on seven Coast Survey vessels and with various field parties in western and central United States and Alaska. In his new position, he will be responsible for the Survey's oceanographic programs and for furnishing project guidance to the marine centers in Norfolk, Va., and Seattle, Wash.

The appointment of Cdr. Donald R. Tibbit as commanding officer of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey's hydrographic ship McARTHUR has been announced. Tibbit is slated to assume command of the Seattle-based ship in early August while she is in Alaskan waters. Prior to his new assignment, he served as director of the National Tsunami Warning Center in Honolulu, which alerts Pacific basin nations

to the danger of seismic sea waves. Before that, he was stationed at the Coast Survey's Honolulu Observatory at Ewa Beach. Cdr. Tibbit joined the Coast Survey in 1959 following graduation from the University of Oklahoma with a civil engineering degree. He worked with geodetic field parties in New Mexico, Missouri, and Alaska until 1962, when he was assigned to sea duty.

Commander Floyd J. Tucker, USC&GS Ship DISCOVERER's executive officer, will become the new Operations Officer at the Coast Survey's Atlantic Marine Center, Norfolk, Va., in mid-September. Cdr. Tucker will succeed Captain Pentti A. Stark, who is assuming command of the Miami Ships Base.

James Smarz has been selected as the new official in charge at WBO, Iliamna, Alaska. Mr. Smarz joined the Alaskan Region in 1968 and has served at the Anchorage Forecast Center as well as remote field stations. Prior to the Iliamna assignment, he was in charge of the Farewell Alaska station.

Pay Rates Modified for Scientists and Engineers; Provisions Clarified

Special pay rates for scientists, engineers, and several other occupations were printed in ESSA NEWS on July 11, 1969. These contained some changes from past practice and questions have arisen as to what the changes mean and how they came about. The following is an explanation of the establishment of special rates in general, and the meaning of the changes in particular.

Provisions of law permit the establishment of special rates of pay for occupations when it is found that there is significant difficulty in recruiting for, and retaining qualified employees in such occupations when pay is a factor. To carry out its responsibilities under the law, the Civil Service Commission periodically reviews the various occupational areas of Government and from this review, determines which types of positions will be covered by special rates and sets the specific rates of pay. At the present time in ESSA, engineers, scientists, cartographers, accountants, mathematicians and operations research positions receive special rates.

General pay legislation (such as Executive Order 11474 which recently provided raises in the General Schedule) does not automatically establish new rates for these occupations, and the Civil Service Commission must consider the impact of such increases on existing special rates.

The recent general pay raise was one of a series designed to reach full pay comparability with private enterprise. In keeping with its obligation, the CSC has reassessed the special pay rates and the degree to which the pay raise has permitted the Government to maintain a competitive pay position relative to industry.

The most significant changes this review has brought about are as follows:

1. The GS-12 level in physical science occupations is no longer included in special rates.
2. The relationship of special rates for scientists to the General Schedule has been modified. Prior to July 13, both scientists and engineers were on the same special schedule and the rates

of this schedule started at various steps in the General Schedule. For example, the first step of the GS-5 in the special schedule equated to the tenth step of GS-5 in the regular schedule. The first step of GS-11 in the special schedule equated to the fifth step of GS-11 in the regular schedule.

The new schedules separate scientist and engineer occupations and the new rates for scientists start at one step lower than previously, relative to the General Schedule. For example, the first step of GS-5 of the special schedule now equates to the ninth step of the GS-5 in the regular; the first step of GS-11 now equates to the fourth step of GS-11 in the regular schedule.

3. Similar changes have been made in schedules for cartographers, mathematicians, operations research and mathematical statistician.

The Commission has issued regulations concerning pay administration of positions when occupations or levels within those occupations have been deleted from special schedules as follows:

Employees in occupations for which special pay rates are withdrawn are to be placed in the regular schedule at their present grade and step, or to retain their present special pay rate if the regular schedule, at the employee's grade and step, cannot match or better that pay rate.

In the present situation the general pay raise, effective July 13, permits all employees in positions for which special pay rates were eliminated to be placed in the General Schedule with a raise in pay. For example, a GS-12 meteorologist at the seventh step received, prior to July 13, \$15,016. He will receive the seventh step of GS-12 after July 13 at the rate of \$16,065. It is clear from this illustration that the percentage raise is not equal to that received by an employee in a GS-12 position who did not previously benefit from the special rate (GS-12, step 7, in the General Schedule advanced from \$14,610 to \$16,065). However, existing regulations are predicated on the application of specific step rates to positions and not on percentage increases.

Items to be considered for ESSA NEWS must be received by Monday for publication the following Friday. Send material to Office of Public Information, ESSA, Room 804, Bldg. 5, Rockville, Md., 20852. Phone (301) 496-8243.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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