

At the request of the Space Sciences Board of the National Academy of Sciences, quarantine for the astronauts and the samples which they bring back will be continued. Although there is the capacity to bring back 166 pounds of material, the time-consuming procedures to document the samples by photographs before and after each sample is picked up will probably limit the amount of material to less than 100 pounds. The reason for the insistence on quarantine is that Fra Mauro is a different kind of surface from the maria which have been visited so far.

#### FOUNDATIONS

### A Sigh of Relief

THE interest of law makers in the tax free accumulation of endowments seems to be troubling the charitable foundations a little less, to read between the lines of the statement by the president of the Ford Foundation, Mr McGeorge Bundy, which accompanied the annual report of the foundation for 1969. The worst that Congress has done so far is to regulate the finances of the foundations by the Tax Reform Act of 1969, and Mr Bundy says in his report that there is no reason why the new legislation should not ensure "the effective continuation of all the basic programmes of this foundation". The extent to which this optimism will be justified remains to be seen, for the Administration has yet to promulgate the regulations and interpretations which the act makes necessary. Mr Bundy does, however, say that he considers much of the new law to be "constructive, necessary and long overdue". Some of it, however, may be less desirable than that.

Much of the concern of Congress, towards the end of 1969, was to see that foundations were not used by private individuals and corporations as devices for evading tax. In a series of enquiries stretching back over the past two years, congressional committees have often uncovered evidence of what is called "self-dealing", under which those who control foundations are able to use them for their own advantage. On the face of things, it may have seemed tempting to many heavily taxed individuals to help relatives through college by means of stipends paid from a charitable foundation set up with a tax-free endowment.

Mr Bundy also approved of the regulation of the new law which requires foundations to divest themselves of controlling interest in particular companies. He cited as a tangible proof the way in which his own foundation has reduced its holdings in Ford Motor Co. from 88 to 25 per cent. He also welcomed the way in which the law asks that foundations should pay out either 6 per cent of their net assets each year or the full amount of their investment income, whichever is higher. His own foundation, he says, has been doing even better than that in the past few years. Mr Bundy does, however, worry about the way in which potential donors may in future find it less attractive to make gifts of property to foundations than to colleges, universities and other charities.

His ire shows most clearly in the complaint about the 4 per cent tax on investment now required of the foundations. In theory the proposal that the foundations should in future bear the cost involved in government regulation seems acceptable, but Mr Bundy now says that his foundation has insisted in the past two years that an audit fee would be more acceptable than

a tax which, he suspects, has been conceived in the spirit of soaking the rich.

### Another Scientist President

IF it was ever true last summer that a third of the colleges in the United States were looking for new presidents, it looks as if these vacancies will soon all be filled by scientists. Last month, the trustees of Brown University elected Dr Donald F. Hornig as president from June this year. Dr Hornig is now at the University of Rochester, to which he moved at the end of 1968 after five years as Science Adviser to President Johnson.

Dr Hornig is a chemist by trade, was educated at Harvard, worked at Los Alamos for the last two years of the Manhattan Project and taught at Brown University from 1946 until 1957. He moved to Princeton in 1958, where he was chairman of the chemistry department.

Dr Hornig said recently that it was too soon as yet to have any plans for his presidency of Brown University. For the past two years, the university has been comparatively free from trouble. One feature of the undergraduate curriculum that may have helped to this end is the liberality of the new arrangements under which required subjects have been eliminated and in which grades have been replaced by a pass/fail system. The university has 4,000 undergraduates, a third of them women, and 1,500 graduate students.

The filling of the presidency at Brown University will now focus attention on the appointment of a successor to Dr N. Pusey at Harvard, who is due to retire at the end of the present academic year, two years before the formal end of his term in office but after a year in which his handling of the presidency has been much criticized by faculty and students alike. It may be relevant that Harvard has also a tendency to appoint chemists as presidents—Dr James B. Conant was the most recent of them.

#### MANPOWER

### Another Complaint

THE Argonne National Laboratory has now joined the long list of those who are complaining about impoverishment under the Administration's plans for spending in the coming financial year. A statement issued last week by the director, Dr Robert B. Duffield, said that in spite of attempts to reduce costs so as to minimize the reductions of manpower which the new budget implies, it has been necessary to dispense with something like 230 employees. Dr Duffield's statement says that if it had not been for normal resignations and retirements the number would be larger. The statement says that "it is highly unfortunate that this reduction in force was necessary" and promises, in a notice addressed to employees at the laboratory, that the laboratory will do everything it can to help the people find new jobs.