

months each year. Next spring, the French government will be faced with the choice of continuing to build the Diamant B booster or giving up the Diamant B and buying the American Scout. CNES's future was not very bright to begin with. Since last Sunday, it is gloomier still.

#### AUSTRALIA

## CSIRO Restrained

THE Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization spent \$A60.2 million in 1970-71, about 60 per cent of Australia's public expenditure on research and development. Although the annual report (CSIRO, Melbourne, 1971) reveals that the organization's budget was \$A8.4 million higher in 1970-71 than in the previous year, CSIRO has clearly been feeling the effects of the federal government's restrictions on public expenditure that were imposed in February this year.

The organization's building programme, for example, had to be trimmed from the \$A2.8 million originally approved to \$A1.1 million but, in spite of the cuts, work commenced on the site of the new National Standards Laboratory in Sydney and on the construction of several other laboratories. The chief project completed during the year was the new CSIRO head office building in Canberra which cost \$A1.5 million and was funded separately by the federal government.

Although 80 per cent of the income of CSIRO during 1970-71 was provided by the federal government, most of the remainder came from levies on the produce of Australia's agricultural industries—wool, meat, wheat, dairying and tobacco—which are matched dollar for dollar by the federal government.

## Electron Accelerator

THE meeting of the European Committee on Future Accelerators (ECFA) in Geneva last week (see *Nature*, 234, 242; 1971) took no decision to set up a working party on the feasibility of a European Electron Accelerator. Professor A. Ashmore, director of Daresbury Nuclear Physics Laboratory, said that the committee was not in favour of starting any new project on the scale of the 300 GeV machine until that accelerator is completed. The meeting did, however, discuss the proposal in general terms and Professor Ashmore thinks it possible that a working party will be set up at the next meeting of ECFA in about six months time.

Some of the CSIRO work of particular interest to the wool industry may soon have to be curtailed because of reduced returns from the sale of wool, and the report also says that "similar difficulties may be expected to arise with others of the agricultural industry trust funds".

As well as bread and butter research and development in such fields as chemistry and physics, some parts of the organization are also engaged in work related to the needs of the Australian mineral industry. \$A3.4 million was spent on the processing and use of mineral products in 1970-71, for example, and other related research includes efforts to improve the techniques of mineral exploration and to understand more fully the disposition and mode of formation of metal ores—particularly nickel sulphide, the copper-lead-zinc ores and the ores of tin.

#### EQUAL PAY

## No Lib Yet

THE letter from Professor David Layzer and his twenty-two co-signatories (see page 369) has raised the question whether *Nature* alone lacks a "non-discriminatory advertising code" and the probability that other newspapers and journals are refusing to publish advertisements which state that women are to be paid less than men. Telephone enquiries this week suggest, however, that those bastions of the British Empire (as was), the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Times*, do not refuse to publish advertisements which discriminate against women. Both declared themselves quite happy to publish anything that anyone is prepared to pay for, provided it is within the letter of the law—although *The Times* did admit to having had trouble over an advertisement for a Scottish lawyer when the intention had been to recruit a lawyer expert in Scottish law.

In the United States some newspapers have had to close their women's appointments column. Have British papers received any complaints? The *Daily Telegraph* says no, *The Times* says yes—a couple—but as the advertising manager said in another context, *The Times* is read by some of the best brains and the biggest cranks in the world.

On the subject of pay discrimination the Canadian High Commission said this week that its women scientists are paid the same as its men. At South Africa House they said that in industry women's pay is not always the same as that of men, but that in the Civil Service it is—"Well, there might be a few bob difference".

The president of the Women's Engineering Society, Miss Peggy Hodges, said that there is a large area in British industry where pay is nominally equal,

but where equal opportunity is quite another matter; women have to be better than men to hold down the same job, she said. What did she know of the position in America? She said that at the Third International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists in Turin last September, she had the impression that in the United States also no more than lip service is paid to equal pay and that there certainly wasn't equal opportunity and she got the impression that "the position was, if anything, slightly worse". Oh dear. And when David Layzer, Randy Levine, Martha Schwink and company can spare a glance at their own problems and away from their suffering cousins 10,000 miles away in Sydney, perhaps they might read an article in *Science* (174, 270; 1971) which suggests that there might be a few battles over equal opportunity still to be fought on the good soil of the homeland before they venture so far abroad.

However, to keep their fighting pecker up with a sniff of victory, we did also ring the Australian Atomic Energy Adviser in London who placed the advertisement. Had anyone ever refused to carry one of his advertisements? no. Was there much in the way of protest about unequal pay in Australia? Well, quite a bit, he said. Could he foresee a time when women in Australia's Commonwealth Civil Service would be paid the same? Mr Fry said he wouldn't like to hazard a guess. In half an hour he rang back. Women scientists in the Australian Civil Service are to receive equal pay from January 1 next year. One more down, a few more to go.

#### TECHNOLOGY

## A White-hot Haze

THAT the understanding and practice of technology must play a larger part in school timetables was the basic assumption behind a one day conference at the Open University last week on introducing technology into the school curriculum. It was also the only area of clear agreement.

The conference, sponsored by the Guinness Awards Scheme, was partly held to gauge reaction to a proposed conversion course in technology for teachers that Mr Geoffrey Holister, Professor of Technology at the Open University, hopes will be approved in principle by the university senate at its February meeting. The details of the course have yet to be worked out, but its aims are to provide teachers with an awareness of technology and its social implications, and an ability to solve problems put before them. It would also help teachers to pass on these abilities to their pupils.

What all this means in practice is far from clear—what people mean by tech-