

certainly will), every institute is set for at least a moderate budget increase. The National Cancer Institute will get \$523.6 million—an increase of \$23.6 million over the Administration's budget request—and the National Heart and Lung Institute will receive \$287.8 million. The largest increase, however, will go to the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, which is set to receive at least \$167.9 million; the Administration had wanted to spend only \$138.5 million. The National Institute of General Medical Sciences is primarily responsible for supporting basic research and Congress decided to give it a considerable increase after a string of influential scientists had complained that the crusades against cancer and heart and lung diseases were taking money away from important areas of basic research.

Research cuts irksome but tolerable

John Hall

ALTHOUGH cuts in British government spending will cause reductions of more than £8 million (5.5%) in research council budgets for next year, there is a feeling that the economies required are irksome rather than seriously debilitating for the five councils involved.

The Department of Education and Science, which was to have spent £151.6 million (at 1973 values) on research and postgraduate training through the research councils during 1974-75, has

issued a revised estimate of £143.5 million, following the chancellor's power crisis budget of December 17, when an overall reduction in public spending of £1,200 million was announced.

The Science Research Council (SRC), which was to have received £72.4 million, will now be given £2.6 million less; the Medical Research Council (MRC), due to have received £29.5 million, loses £1.3 million; the Agricultural Research Council's £23.9 million is cut by £1.4 million; the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) loses £1 million from its projected £19.5 million; and the Social Science Research Council drops £1.8 million from a proposed £6.5 million.

The NERC is postponing work on two capital expenditure programmes (the Institute for Marine Environmental Research at Plymouth and the British Antarctic Survey building at Cambridge) but otherwise the councils are talking in terms of careful, across the board economies rather than of halting projects which are already under way.

The Agricultural Research Council gave an assurance that salaries and wages of existing staff would not be affected by the 16.3% cut it has to make. The reduction will be spread almost equally across capital and current expenditures, and the effect of the budget changes on individual research units has yet to be determined.

The NERC's saving will be of £600,000 on current and £400,000 on capital spending, and will be achieved by a process of "slowing things down

rather than actually cutting anything out".

An MRC spokesman's comment on the cuts was that £1.3 million might look like a lot of money but spread across its own 80 research establishments, and other users, it did not exactly amount to a crippling threat. In the same vein the SSRC promised that "such a small amount" could be saved by marginal reductions in the funds that were made available for new commitments in research and postgraduate training.

The SRC was keeping quiet about the cuts until its members could meet for discussions.

Knights Bachelor

IN the New Year Honours List the following have been created Knights Bachelor:

Stanley George Hooker, Group Technical Director of Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd;

Maurice George Kendall, for services to the theory of statistics;

John Cowdery Kendrew, for services to the Ministry of Defence;

Charles William Oatley, Emeritus Professor of Electrical Engineering, Cambridge University;

Hugh Norwood Robson, Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield University;

Frederick Henry Stewart, Regius Professor of Geology, Edinburgh University.

correspondence

Ethiopian Calamity

SIR,—In the article 'The Ethiopian Calamity' (*Nature*, 246, 53; 1973) your correspondent writes that a plea went to the World Food Programme but that "aid did not materialise from this source for several months".

After almost 11 years of food aid activities during which time this Programme has shipped some four million tons of food aid for social and economic development and emergencies, we have not found it possible to procure and deliver large quantities of food from ports in North America or Western Europe to developing regions in a matter of days or even weeks. This difficulty was fully appreciated by the Government of Ethiopia which, in its request to WFP for 20,000 tons of grain in April this year, asked for delivery by December

1973. Supplies are now arriving as planned. However, because of assurances of the arrival of WFP food, the Government was able to borrow from its national stocks and began distribution in May. The WFP food now arriving will be used to replenish these stocks.

Meanwhile, the Programme has arranged for shipment of a further 15,000 tons of grains plus an additional \$350,000 for internal transportation of relief supplies regardless of their source. This will bring WFP's total contribution to 25,000 tons of food grains and \$550,000 in cash.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCISCO AQUINO

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Fortuitous Correlations?

SIR,—The article 'What's in a Name?' (*Nature*, 246, 385; 1973) pointed out a number of significant correlations but ignored the rich contributions made by brain research workers to this field¹⁻⁴.

Yours faithfully,

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¹ Looney, J. M. (A Biochemical Study of the Blood in Mental Disorders), *Am. J. Psychiat.*, 4, 29 (1924).

² Brain, W. R. (Mind and Matter), *Lancet*, 864 (1951).

³ Brain, W. R. (Henry Head: The Man and His Ideas), *Brain*, 84, 529 (1961).

⁴ Boring, E. G. (A History of Introspection), *Psychol. Bull.*, 50, 169 (1953).