# gulating Biotechnology by White House Panel

edicines produced by biotechnolo-

Until now, federally sponsored ene-splicing research considered tentially hazardous to the environent or to humans has been regulatby the National Institutes of ealth, which uses an outside panel scientists, known as the Recombiant-DNA Advisory Committee, to view experiments individually.

### Iembership Expanded

Although the committee recently xpanded its membership to include cologists and experts in ethics, to eview genetic tests on humans and the field, critics have complained hat it is ill-suited for reviewing exeriments conducted outside of the aboratory and incapable of regulatng biotechnology companies.

N.I.H. rules require only the recipints of federal support to submit their ene-splicing proposals to the panel, Ithough companies have in the past ilso submitted proposals voluntarily and abided by the agency's final deciions

Concern over the lack of industry regulation of such experiments as ield tests of potentially hazardous, genetically altered organisms prompted the E.P.A. last year to prooose using laws governing toxic substances and pesticides to regulate the release of such organisms and other products of biotechnology.

But the E.P.A.'s plans were stalled after some White House officials expressed fears that the rules might be unduly restrictive to companies and might hamper the companies' ability to compete internationally...

The interagency working group, which was formed partly in response to those concerns, concluded that the E.P.A.'s plans would not be unduly restrictive and that the biotechnology industry could be adequately regulated, at least at present, without the creation of new laws.

The panel's findings came as a relief to many biotechnology companies and researchers who who were afraid that developing new regulations might further delay testing of potential products for introduction into the market.

"Our position all along has been that all of the products could be accommodated under the various existing statutes," said Alan Goldhammer, a technology associate at the Industrial Biotechnology Association in Rockville, Md.

However, Jeremy Rifkin, president of the Foundation on Economic Trends and a longtime critic of genetic-engineering research, complained that the panel's report neglected to consider the serious damage harmful new organisms could create.

"I think it's very difficult to try to squeeze the genetic age into chemical and petrochemical laws," he said. "While there are some similarities between chemicals and organisms, there are important differences. They're alive, they can reproduce, and you can't recall them.'

-KIM McDONALD

# er Founded by Robert Hutchins Duties; Reasons Not Given



Allen Weinstein says he inherited a "near-bankrupt institution" in the Hutchins center.

other problems continued after Mr. Hutchins's death in 1977. In 1979 it moved to the Santa Barbara campus, where it went through four presidents in five years-not counting Mr. Weinstein

Since Mr. Weinstein took over the presidency early last year, the center has been considerably more active and more in the public eve than it had and visibility" (The Chronicle, Sep-

Mr. Weinstein said he did not fully understand the reasons for the board's action, which he said occurred very suddenly. He argued that he had not been given due process and had, in fact, resigned his position before the board voted against him.

Mr. Weinstein noted that he had "inherited a near-bankrupt institution" and had not had the time to put the center back on its feet financially. The program he put together for the center "speaks for itself," he added.

# Washington Center Formed

Since he left Santa Barbara, Mr. Weinstein and a number of people he appointed to the center's board of directors have incorporated a new Center for Democracy, with headquarters in Washington. The new center will take over many of the projects initiated by Mr. Weinstein at the Hutchins center, including a major study of campaign-finance re-

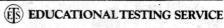
While neither Mr. Huttenback nor Mr: Kieffer would comment at length on the dismissal, they both expressed hopes for the future of the center.

Mr. Kieffer said he would like to see "better-planned and more appro-priately spaced" conferences and other programs under the new leadership.

Mr. Huttenback added that he

# The 1985-86

# Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs



### PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

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  The names, affiliations, addresses, and telephone numbers of two individuals willing to furnish
- tions for the candidate
- Transcripts of college undergraduate and graduate grades
  William W. Turnbull, Chairman, Fel

Applications and inquiries should be sent to: Vera M. House, Assistant to the Chairman, Fellowship Committee, Educational Testing Service, Princeton, NJ 08541. 609-734-5152.

Applications for 1985-86 will be accepted until February 15. Awards will be made in April.

# 1984 Phi Beta Kappa Book Awards

Christian Gauss Award

# **Irvin Ehrenpreis**

Swift: The Man, His Works and the Age Volume III, Dean Swift Harvard University Press

Science Award

**George Greenstein** Frozen Star: Of Pulsars, Black Holes and the Fate of Stars Freundlich Books

Ralph Waldo Emerson Award

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