

in a series of legislative operations seminars for career Federal executives, Civil Service Grades 15 to 18. This seminar program was inaugurated last year, at the request of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, in an effort to enhance the career civil servants' knowledge and understanding of

executive-legislative relations through an examination in depth of Congressional functions and processes. A third seminar, also to be conducted by political scientists, members of the House and Senate, and Executive Branch officials, is scheduled during the month of May.

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

The Conference on Soviet and Communist Studies of the American Political Science Association met in New York in September for its annual business meeting. Marshall D. Shulman, Fletcher School, retiring chairman, presided. George Fischer of the department of government at Cornell University was elected vice-chairman for 1963-64 and chairman for 1964-65. Robert C. Tucker of Princeton University, the present chairman, appointed a nominating committee

composed of Louis Nemzer, Ohio State University, chairman; Alex Dragnich, Vanderbilt University; and George Fischer. The guest of honor, Louis Fischer, spoke on his forthcoming biography of Lenin.

The Society for International Development held its sixth world conference in Washington, D. C., March 16-18, 1964. The theme of the conference was "Human Factors in International Development: Motivations and Methods"

OTHER ACTIVITIES

ACCESS TO THE RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Department of State has recently revised its rules governing access by researchers to its records. For many years the records of the Department have been divided for this purpose into three periods: open, restricted, and closed. The open period formerly ran through 1929; the restricted period covered 1930 through 1941; the closed period was from 1942 to the present. The new regulations retain the same three periods for access purposes, but the fixed dates have been removed in favor of a system of progressive opening geared to the publication of the Department's series *Foreign Relations of the United States*. Thus the closed period is now defined as the period in advance of the *Foreign Relations* series, and the beginning date of the closed period will be advanced automatically as the volumes in that series are published. The restricted period is defined as the ten years in back of the closed period, and the open period covers the records prior thereto.

Since the *Foreign Relations* volumes have now been published for 1942 and are being released for 1943, this means that the terminal date of the restricted period has been advanced to 1943 while the terminal date of the open period has been advanced from 1929 to January 1, 1933.

Applications for access to records of the open period may be made direct to the National Archives, Washington, D. C. 20408. Applications for access to the restricted period should be made to the Historical Office, Department of State, Washington, D. C. 20520. Access to documents of the restricted period will be granted liberally to serious scholars, subject to review of their notes. It is not the Department's policy to grant access in the restricted period to undergraduates.

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