

# National Whirligig

By RAY TUCKER

WASHINGTON—With the advent of the outer space age, Congress has set out to refute the remark so often attributed to Mark Twain—but which the New York Public Library says was actually written by Charles Dudley Warner in The Hartford Courant around 1890—that, "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it."

Its life-and-death importance in war or peace, as well as Russia's known efforts to tamper with the elements to the Communists advantage in the cold war, has forced action in this neglected field.

With the endorsement of military leaders, scientists, conservation experts, farmers, businessmen, and a score of senators from states which have suffered from 1958 droughts, floods, hurricanes and tornadoes, the Senate has passed unanimously Sen. Francis Case's bill for a national research program in weather modification. It has been favorably reported by the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee.

The measure authorizes the National Science Foundation to conduct a study of the problem from all aspects. In addition to its own work it will cooperate with meteorologists and scientist, visparetETA:li-pB ologists and sicientists, private institutions and government agencies throughout the world.

the Arctic explains their rejection of the Eisenhower proposal for aerial inspection of this region.

"Please imagine a world," Teller told the committee, "in which the Russians can control the weather on a big scale, where they can change the rainfall over Russia, and that—here I am talking about a very definite situation—might well influence the rainfall in our country in an adverse manner.

"THEY WOULD SAY: 'We are sorry if we hurt you. We don't care, We are merely trying to do what we need to do in order to let our people live.'"

"What kind of a world would it be where they have thjs new kind of world control, and we do not? I think as you think—that this and other examples totally become vivid on your mind—what it might mean to become a second-class power.

"Ultimately, we see again and again that small causes in the weather can lead to very big effects, and when that is the case, pre-

BESIDES FEDERAL FUNDS, the foundation is authorized to accept gifts, materials and services from interested sources. It will, therefore, make the first serious and concerted attempt outside Russia to determine whether man can control the elements that influence his destiny in so many ways.

Case's original bill was only a rain-making proposal, and under it its provisions an Advisory Committee on Weather Control has been collecting data since 1953. In its report several months ago, it said that in the mountainous areas of the United States, seeding of winter-type storm clouds had increased precipitation on an average of from 10 to 15 per cent. In nonmountainous sections, the results were not so "dramatic." It recommended more intensive research and experimentation.

IN VIEW OF THE droughts, hurricanes, floods and other phenomena that have destroyed crops and property, as well as the unknown effect of A and H-bomb detonations, the pending measure embraces every factor in this field and all impacts of the elements—rain, hail, lightning, fog, smog, forest fires, etc. It is hoped to save the millions lost from such catastrophes annually.

Dr. Edward Teller, father of the H-bomb, discussed Russian experiments, and the advantages the Communists would gain, if they achieved control of the world's weather ahead of the United States. In fact, it is believed that their work on this problem in

diction becomes very hard. But of we can find out precisely where the small causes lie, it may trigger off the bigger effects. If we find out that, we will be on the road to control of the weather on a big scale."

CAPT. HOWARD T. ORVILLE (USN, retired), who headed the Advisory Committee on Weather Control, also warned of this new Russian menace.

"Since weather control," he said, "is an ideal tool for waging the relentless cold war against the Western powers, we must not become complacent, and we must not be caught as we were when Suptnik I was launched last October. We must take seriously the truth of Vice President Nixon's statement: 'The Kremlin has reaffirmed its goal of world domination by nonmilitary means if possible, and by war if necessary.' Weather control has many important nonmilitary applications, and just as many military ones."