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WILSON TO DIRECT PROPOSED 200 BEV ACCELERATOR LAB

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WASHINGTON-Appointment of Robert Rathbun Wilson of Cornell University as Director of a proposed National Accelerator Laboratory was announced today by Dr. Norman F. Ramsey, president of Universities Research Association (URA).

The Association, comprised of 46 U.S. universities, has offered its services to the Atomic Energy Commission to design, construct, and operate the proposed 200 billion electron volt (BEV) proton accelerator at the recently selected Weston site near Chicago, Illinois.

The Commission has signed a contract with URA for conceptual planning and other preliminary activities relating to the proposed accelerator at the Weston site. The AEC's Lawrence Radiation Laboratory at Berkeley, California, performed the preliminary design study work.

Dr. Wilson has been professor of physics and director of the Laboratory of Nuclear Studies at Cornell since 1947. One of his primary duties has been directing the design and construction on campus of a 10 BEV electron synchrotron which he expects to see through to its successful completion this year.

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He previously headed the Experimental Nuclear Physics Division at the Los Alamos (New Mexico) Laboratory of the Army's Manhattan Engineer District from 1944 to 1946.

Born March 4, 1914, in Frontier, Wyoming, Dr. Wilson earned his bachelor's (1936) and his doctor of philosophy (1940) degrees at the University of California at Berkeley where he studied under the late Nobel Prize winner, Ernest O. Lawrence.

While still a graduate student, Dr. Wilson began his research on the scattering of protons by protons. He went to Princeton as an instructor in 1940 and was soon engaged, in collaboration with Enrico Fermi, in some of the early measurements of the neutron-absorbing properties of the element, U-235.

In 1941, he invented the "Isotron method" for separating the isotopes of uranium. He then was placed in charge of a 50-man atomic energy project at Princeton University.

When the Los Alamos Laboratory was formed in 1943, Dr. Wilson and his colleagues moved to New Mexico to help in the formation of that laboratory where he served as director of the cyclotron group. He was named to head the Experimental Nuclear Physics Division a year later and served until 1946 when he accepted a teaching post at Harvard University.

Dr. Wilson helped design a cyclotron at Harvard before leaving in 1947 to direct Cornell's Laboratory of Nuclear Studies. There, he and his colleagues have built a progression of electron synchrotrons that started with a pioneering 300 million electron volt (MEV) machine. They were the first to apply the strong focusing principle to an accelerator when they built a 1.2 BEV machine which was recently

replaced by a more modern 2 BEV unit. They now are finishing a 10 BEV electron synchrotron that will be the largest electron synchrotron in the world. With these machines Dr. Wilson's group has explored the structure of the proton, resulting in discoveries about the various changes of forms that can be induced in the proton.

Dr. Wilson was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1957 and was the first chairman of the Federation of American Scientists. He has had formal training as a sculptor in the U.S. and in Italy and has had two showing of his sculpture in Ithaca. He was commissioned to make a large sculpture for the Institute of Advanced Studies at Princeton, New Jersey, and another for the Festival Theatre in Ithaca.

He is married to the former Jane Inez Scheyer of San Francisco, and they have three children - Daniel, Jonathan, and Rand.

Universities Research Association was formed in 1965 by a group of universities to provide national academic participation in the operation of the 200 BEV accelerator. The Association's initial contract with the AEC is for about $200,000.

Under the contract, the Association is studying alternatives for proceeding with the facility. The present plan calls for an accelerator that would produce protons at an energy of 200 BEV but with a lower beam intensity and fewer experimental areas than contemplated in the original Lawrence Radiation Laboratory studies. The facility will be so designed that it could be expanded later, both in proton intensity and in experimental areas. During the design period, consideration also will be given to maintaining a flexibility for later increases in energy.

The AEC has requested $10 million in its Fiscal Year 1968 budget for initial design work on the accelerator.