

U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE BACKS RESEARCH ON AGING

By NORMAN NELSON

A pioneer Regional Center for Research on Aging will be established on the Duke University campus.

First of its kind in the nation, the center will be supported in part by a U. S. Public Health Service grant expected to total more than \$1,500,000 over a five-year period.

The center will serve as a pilot project in the Southeast and its success may determine whether or not similar undertakings will be launched in other regions with support from the National Institutes of Health of the USPHS.

Surgeon General Leroy E. Burney of the U. S. Public Health Service, said that this marks "the first time that funds appropriated by Congress to the Public Health Service for aid to research have been awarded to help in the establishment of a large-scale regional research center.

"And it is the first time, to my knowledge," he added, "that one of the leading institutions of higher learning in this country has set out, in a deliberate fashion, to mobilize its extensive resources in search of better understanding of the processes of aging—one of modern man's most challenging problems."

Dr. Burney explained that the National Advisory Heart and Mental Health Councils, advisory bodies of the USPHS, "have jointly recommended that slightly more than \$300,000 be made available during this first year of the grant. These Coun-



DR. EWALD BUSSE

cils also recommended that continuing support of this project be assured in essentially the same amount each year for at least five years."

Made by the National Heart and Mental Health Institutes, the grant was negotiated through the NIH Center for Aging Research headed by Dr. E. Halsey Hunt. Additional support for the research center will be provided by Duke University.

Dr. Ewald W. Busse, chairman of the Duke Medical School's psychiatry department and of the Duke University Council on Gerontology, will be principal investigator for the center's research program. Over-all work of the center will be directed toward the ultimate goals of slowing the

aging process, promoting the health of elderly persons and preventing or delaying the institutionalization of the aged.

The Public Health Service funds will support a teamwork approach to aging problems by workers in fields such as psychology, sociology and economics as well as medicine.

Dr. Busse explained that the Duke Council on Gerontology will serve as an "operational core" for the new regional research center. Established in 1955, the Council represents a University-wide effort to contribute to the study of problems of aging by encouraging research, providing a central source of information on gerontology and disseminating information resulting from Duke research.

(Continued on page 2)

Coffee Shop Service

The Coffee and Shop Services of the Women's Auxiliary, closed since August 5 for the annual vacation, will reopen on Sept. 4. In view of the increased need for volunteer services, Auxiliary leaders indicate that this will probably be the last year for the annual vacation. In the future, an effort will be made to stagger vacations for the volunteers so that all services will continue on a year-round basis.