The Nixon Administration's proposed budget for the 1974 fiscal year deals a heavy blow to funding for turfgrass research.

Federal agricultural officials are asking for a 20 per cent reduction in research funds primarily from the Hatch Act appropriations and two related bills that were established to support research through state agricultural experiment stations, which handle most turfgrass research.

If this proposed 20 per cent reduction is passed by Congress, it will mean a 5 per cent reduction in state agricultural experiment station research budgets, which are administered by state universities in 50 states.

A BRIEF HISTORY
University staff, responsible for doling out the funds contributed jointly (but not necessarily equally) by the state and Federal governments to support agricultural research, has historically relegated turfgrass research to a lower priority than commodity (food, feed and fiber) research. This has been partly due to a filtering down of Federal and state priorities on agricultural research to the universities.

Members of the turf industry are fearful over the proposed reduction in Federal funds for agricultural research, and with justification. The cutback can have far-reaching effects on the total turfgrass industry.

by DR. JAMES B. BEARD

The upshot has been that turfgrass research has had to rely heavily on extramural grants from state and regional turfgrass foundations, the USGA Green Section, O.J. Noer Research Foundation, the GCSAA, private industry and similar sources of sustenance. But these sources have not been sufficient to carry turfgrass research beyond the rudimentary stage, compared to other areas of applied plant science.

WHAT FUTURE?
The fact that many state agricultural administrators tend to concur with Federal leaders on the low priority of turfgrass research creates the possibility that state budget reductions in funds to support university agricultural experiment stations may vary, with some schools suffering more than 12 per cent cuts in available funds. (It should be noted here that most turf research in the form of new cultural practices, grass varieties and chemical materials has been done at state agricultural experiment stations rather than at the Federal level, and yet the Federal budget for agricultural research was not reduced. The Federal government employs two turf researchers compared to at least 50 at the state level.)

NEW PRIORITY—NO MONEY
The tragedy for proponents of greater emphasis on turf research is that university staffs responsible for setting priorities in agricultural research have become increasingly aware of society's con-

continued on page 54
Managing turfgrasses in the transition zone is a serious, demanding, but rewarding business, and those involved should be commended for their fortitude in tackling the task. Once those of us in research and teaching can catch up with the demands for information made upon us by those in the field, quality of turfgrass areas will increase even more than in the past. The gap between where we are in research and where we should be is colossal, but it is narrowing. Financial assistance for research and graduate students from sources supported by turf managers is critical if the gap is to be further narrowed. Much of the work that has been done was the result of assistance from organizations supported by turf managers. Those of us in turfgrass research acknowledge your efforts and hope that they continue.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GOLFDOM readers who wish to express their concern regarding this issue should write their congressmen, and it is especially important to contact those congressmen who are members of the House and Senate Appropriations and Agricultural Committees.

In the interest of all, players should play without delay.

Robert C. Rosenthal now general manager at Knollwood Club, Lake Forest, Ill. He was at St. Charles (II.) for the previous seven years. . . . . . . . Stanley Horvatin, after 20 years as manager, Illinois Athletic Club, Chicago, moves to Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest, Ill., as general manager, succeeding Joseph J. Stephens who retired.

Want to get rich in golf?

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