

School. It is planned to continue this lecture program.

During the summer of 1957, Hughes is employing 19 high-school teachers as a continuation and expansion of last summer's Teachers-in-Industry project. In addition the Company is employing 12 gifted students who are working as a team on a specific problem which they are expected to complete and write up during the summer. The problem is the civil defense of Los Angeles in the event of nuclear attack. The students will have a full-time supervisor and will be given orientation lectures and the necessary factual information and guidance necessary for the problem. The students will receive, in addition to a modest salary, a \$400 scholarship for college. This project is based on the very successful experience of the Johns Hopkins Operations Research Office.

From the point of view of the technical staff of the Hughes Aircraft Company this cooperative effort with the Los Angeles and Culver City schools has been very

rewarding. Real satisfaction is bound to result from stimulating contacts with the school people and their students, from the challenge of difficult and important problems, and from the rich returns that can be achieved with modest effort in this field. Accomplishment is multiplied by catalytic action as other industrial companies join in the Los Angeles program and as the results of the local effort are widely disseminated through conferences and publications.

It is appropriate to acknowledge the contributions in ideas and effort of the many people at Hughes Aircraft Company and in the Los Angeles schools who devoted themselves to making this program a success. It is possible here to name only a few major contributors: T. F. Ball, D. L. Trautman, J. M. Glass, C. B. Barker, R. L. White, J. Cryden, and D. M. Washburn at Hughes Aircraft Company; the late C. L. Reeves, E. A. Jarvis, R. E. Kelley, K. F. Smith, and D. F. Randolph of the Los Angeles schools.

The APS-AAPT Joint Committee for Cooperation with Secondary School Science Teaching

By J. M. Jauch

THE unsatisfactory state of science education in our secondary schools has been the subject of numerous studies and articles in various journals. It is now generally recognized that effective action must be taken if we are to meet the growing demand for physicists in education, in industry, and in the defense program.

In order to implement such action the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers established in the fall of 1956 the Committee on Cooperation with Secondary School Science Teaching. The members of the committee were selected so as to represent the research physicist in the university, the physics teacher, including the high-school teacher, and the industrial physicist. The following are at present members of the committee: W. Carlson, St. Paul, Minnesota; E. U. Condon, Washington University, St. Louis; M. Rasseweiler, University of Minnesota; K. R. Symon, University of Wisconsin; H. C. Urey, University of Chicago; L. C. Van Atta, Hughes Aircraft Company, Los Angeles; and J. M. Jauch, State University of Iowa, Chairman.

The Committee has conducted a study of the various activities which have been carried on by several organizations with a view to determine the most effective way of reaching the objective. One of the conclusions

which emerged as a result of this study was that any effort aimed at the improvement of science teaching in the secondary schools is most likely to succeed if it is developed on the local and regional level.

In order to initiate such action, the Committee has contacted the regional secretaries and chairman of the sponsor organization as well as the organizations affiliated with the American Institute of Physics. A list of various possible approaches was distributed together with an urgent plea to create local committees and initiate whatever program of action is most suitable for the particular region in question.

The Committee will be available for consultation and advice and it will secure needed reference material. It will further communicate with local committees at regular intervals, keeping them informed of the work and progress made by other groups and it offers its service to act as agent for securing financial support of local programs.

The article by L. C. Van Atta in this issue offers an outstanding example of the effective work which is possible by imaginative local leadership. It is hoped that many similar programs of action will be developed in the near future all over the United States.

Anyone who wishes to secure more information on the various programs now in operation should contact the Committee's secretary, Professor M. Rasseweiler, General College, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 14, Minn.

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