The Institute

Seminar for Science Writers

FUNDAMENTAL concepts in plasma physics were reviewed on May 24 at a seminar designed to provide background information for the benefit of science writers from the popular press. Held at the headquarters of the American Institute of Physics in New York City, the seminar was conducted by the AIP in cooperation with the National Association of Science Writers. The program included a series of survey papers by William P. Allis of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lewis Branscomb of the National Bureau of Standards, Melvin B. Gottlieb of Princeton University's Project Matterhorn, Henry Hurwitz, Jr., of the General Electric Research Laboratory, and Alan C. Kolb of the Naval Research Laboratory. Arthur Kantrowitz, director of the Avco-Everett Research Laboratory, presided.

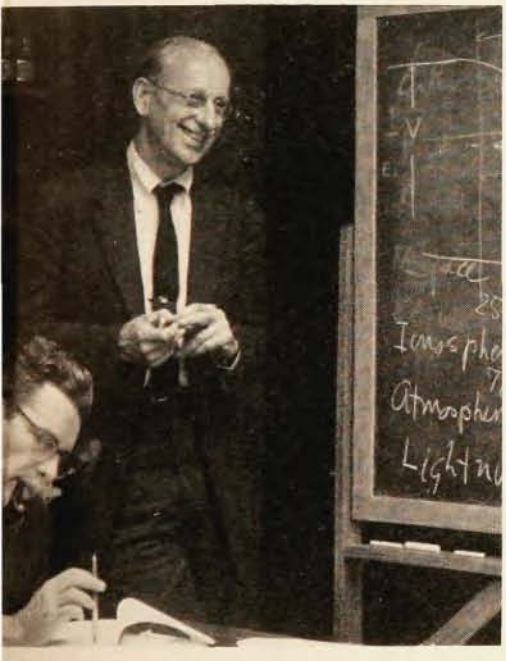
A similar meeting was held at the Institute last October, and it was largely because of the enthusiastic response of the science writers who participated on that occasion that the seminar on plasma physics was organized. The first seminar, which dealt with solid-state physics, was held under the chairmanship of

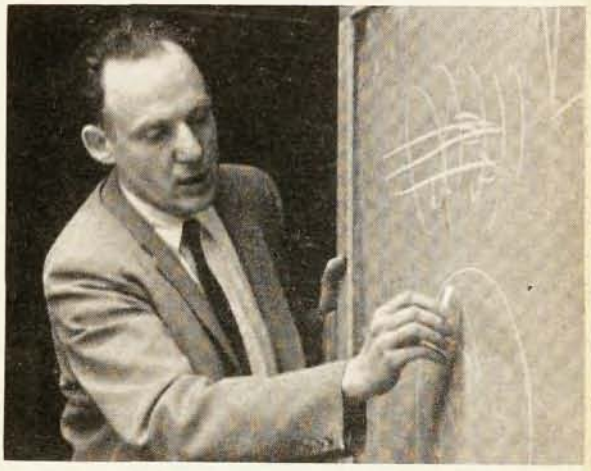
Arthur Kantrowitz (left) discusses slides with Alan C. Kolb during break in seminar on plasmas.

Conyers Herring of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, and consisted of a massive dose of basic information administered by J. C. Fisher of the GE Research Laboratory, Walter Kohn of Carnegie Institute of Technology, J. E. Goldman of the Ford Motor Company, and Frank Herman of the Radio Corporation of America.

On each occasion the program filled the entire day and the audience stayed until the very end. Questions from the floor were frequently pointed and there were moments when the seminar resembled a press conference. In conjunction with each program, a glossary of commonly used terms was prepared and distributed to the participants. The solid-state physics glossary was compiled by William Miller of the City College of New York and the plasma physics glossary was prepared by David R. Whitehouse of MIT. Either can be obtained without charge by writing to the Public Relations Department, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York 17, N. Y.

Lewis Branscomb listens to question from audience.





At left, Henry Hurwitz takes notes during lecture by William P. Allis. Above, *New York Times'* William L. Laurence (with cigar) and Robert Toth of *New York Herald Tribune* listen; at blackboard Melvin Gottlieb illustrates problems encountered in attempting magnetic confinement of hot plasma. Below, at far right, Earl Ubell of the *New York Herald Tribune* questions one of the panelists from the floor.

Photos by J. Mirken