

SOCIETIES

APS-AAPT Annual Joint Meeting in New York

MORE than 3800 physicists gathered in New York City during the first four days in February to attend the 1961 annual joint meeting of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers. Many of that number found themselves stranded over the week end by the heavy snowfall which commenced a few hours before the joint banquet on February 3 and which temporarily disrupted both air and surface transportation out of the metropolitan area.

In each society the terms of new officers became effective at the close of the meeting. The 1961 president of the Physical Society is Frederick Seitz, head of the

Physics Department at the University of Illinois and a former chairman of the American Institute of Physics. Professor Seitz, who served during 1959 and 1960 as science adviser to NATO while on leave from Illinois, succeeds V. F. Weisskopf, the Society's president for 1960. Professor Weisskopf is currently on a three-year leave of absence from his post at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology while serving as a member of the directorate of the CERN organization in Switzerland. He will become CERN's director general in August. William V. Houston of Rice University, a former member of the AIP Governing Board, has succeeded Professor Seitz as vice president and will become the Physical Society's president in 1962.

The new slate of officers of the AAPT is headed by Malcolm Correll, chairman of the Department of Physics at DePauw University, who has succeeded Leonard O. Olsen of the US Naval Postgraduate School as the Association's president. The president-elect is Frank Verbrugge, associate dean and professor of physics at the Institute of Technology of the University of Minnesota, who has served as the Association's secretary since 1955. He has been succeeded in the latter post by Ralph P. Winch, Barclay Jermain professor of natural philosophy at Williams College.

The AAPT re-elected Sanborn C. Brown as treasurer and Walter C. Michels as editor of the *American Journal of Physics*; the Physical Society re-elected Karl K.



F. Seitz (left), president of the American Physical Society, and W. V. Houston, the Society's vice president.



In photo at left, AAPT president M. Correll (center) talks with 1959 president, F. Sears (left), and past president L. Olsen, whose term expired last month. AAPT's new president-elect is F. Verbrugge (above).

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Richtmyer Lecturer W. A. Fowler



Oersted Medalist J. R. Zacharias

Darrow and Shirley L. Quimby as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Special symposia on a variety of topics were important elements of the programs of both the Physical Society and the Association of Physics Teachers, and overflow audiences were the rule. The APS program included some 430 contributed papers distributed among 37 sessions held simultaneously during the four days of the meeting, as well as a symposium on general relativity, another on fission, and 26 additional invited papers. The APS Divisions of Electron Physics and Solid-State Physics each held special sessions, adding another ten invited papers to the total. The AAPT program included some forty contributed papers and nineteen invited papers. The latter were for the most part grouped in three special sessions: a seven-part report to the members of the Association by the newly established Commission on College Physics, a symposium on current trends in undergraduate physics education, and a symposium on topics in the history of modern physics.

The Physical Society's portion of the program of the traditional Joint Ceremonial Session consisted of Professor Weisskopf's retiring presidential address ("Problems of Nuclear Structure"). The AAPT conferred its Oersted Medal for 1961 on J. R. Zacharias, professor of physics and director of the Laboratory for Nuclear Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a ceremony that was followed by the address of the Oersted Medalist ("A Team Approach to Education") and by the Twentieth Richtmyer Memorial Lecture of the AAPT which was given by William A. Fowler of the California Institute of Technology ("Deuteronomy: The Synthesis of Deuterons and the Light Nuclei During the Early History of the Solar System").

Francis W. Sears, past president of the Association, presented the Oersted Medal citation, which stated that Professor Zacharias was being honored for "his wisdom and foresight in establishing the Physical Science Study Committee which has done so much to force us all to

take a new look at physics teaching in our high schools". As an adjunct to the citation, the following telegram to Professor Zacharias was read:

I take great pleasure in extending to you my congratulations on the award being made to you today of the Oersted Medal by the American Association of Physics Teachers. For your foresight and ability in developing an exciting new curriculum for secondary-school physics teaching, you richly deserve the honor you are now receiving. The products of your work have already started a revolution in science teaching in the US and have excited the interest and imagination of scientists and educators throughout the world. You should be justly proud, but it is my hope, and obviously unnecessary to add, that you will continue to devote your talents to projects so much in the public interest.

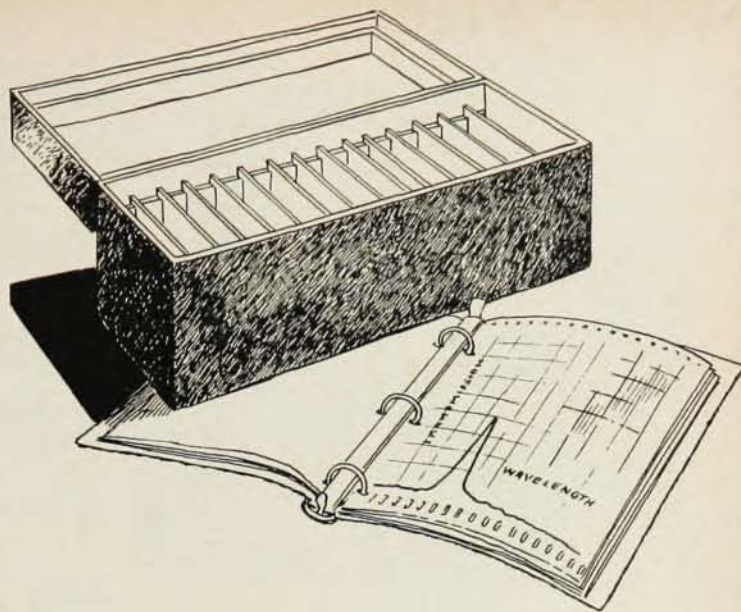
John F. Kennedy

In his response, Professor Zacharias accepted the award as a tribute to the several hundred people who participated in the PSSC program. "These people, whose names appear in our textbooks and published reports," he said, "have made this project possible. However, there is one man whose contributions stand out above the contributions of all the rest of us, and that is Professor Francis L. Friedman."

The Association also awarded Distinguished Service Citations to the following individuals: Thomas B. Brown of Harvey Mudd College was cited for his devotion to the teaching of physics and for his service to the AAPT as editor-in-chief of the *Taylor Memorial Laboratory Manual*; Walter C. Michels of Bryn Mawr College was honored for his services as AAPT president (1956-57), for having represented the Association on the AIP Governing Board, and for his work as editor of the *American Journal of Physics*; Eric Rodgers of the University of Alabama was recognized for his contributions as chairman of the AAPT's High-School Awards Committee; and Yale K. Roots of the US Naval Propellant

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W. Kohn, recipient of the Oliver E. Buckley Solid-State Physics Prize for 1961.

Plant was cited for his initiation of the AAPT project for studying physics building problems in the United States.

During the joint APS-AAPT banquet, the Physical Society's Oliver E. Buckley Solid-State Physics Prize for 1961 was awarded to Walter Kohn of the University of California's School of Science and Engineering at La Jolla, and the after-dinner address was given by former APS President H. A. Bethe, who spoke on the subject "Scientists in Politics". The citation for the Buckley Prize, which was presented by Professor Weisskopf as one of his last official actions as president of the Society, praised Professor Kohn in particular for having extended and elucidated the foundations of the electron theory of solids. Endowed in 1952 by the Bell Telephone Laboratories in honor of its former president and board chairman, the late O. E. Buckley, the prize is administered by the Society and carries a cash award of \$1000.

Also at the banquet, in an unheralded action, the Society took formal note of the fact that Karl Darrow had been its secretary for twenty years. The anniversary tribute was delivered by J. H. Van Vleck of Harvard, who spoke eloquently of Secretary Darrow's many services to the Society during its two decades of most rapid growth, praising his tireless devotion to its welfare, and expressing not only the admiration of the members for his outstanding abilities and achievements but also their hope that his tenure as secretary would continue. Dr. Darrow expressed his pleasure in accepting the citation and said that he intended to continue serving for some time to come.

THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

presents this testimonial to

Karl Kelchner Darrow

on the occasion of his

Twentieth Anniversary as Secretary



He has guided the Society during the difficult period in which physics changed from a relatively unknown, insignificant discipline to one which is now recognized as a major force in shaping our future.

Karl Darrow's rare combination of dignity with humor, intellect with imagination, and resolution with tact, have enabled him to maintain the lofty aims and traditions of the Society in a rapidly changing scientific world. His exceptional ability to describe a situation exactly has played no small part in the smooth operation. The American Physical Society has enjoyed during a period in which its membership increased by more than a factor of four. Karl Darrow is a distinguished figure in American physics, a man regarded by his numerous colleagues with respect and affection.

The Council hopes he will continue to guide the administration of the Society for many years to come.

Presented this third day of February,
nineteen hundred and sixty-one.



Victor F. Weisskopf
President

Franklin S. G. ...
Vice-President

Shirley L. ...
Secretary

Samuel S. ...
Managing Editor



K. K. Darrow (right) is congratulated by V. F. Weisskopf, retiring president of the American Physical Society, during ceremony honoring Dr. Darrow on the occasion of his 20th anniversary as the Society's secretary. The large testimonial scroll he received is reproduced in miniature at left.