

CHANGE IN DIRECTORSHIP AT THE A.I.P.

Elmer Hutchisson retires; Ralph Sawyer becomes acting director

On October 1, Elmer Hutchisson retired from his post as director of the American Institute of Physics, after having served in that capacity for more than seven years. Upon his retirement, Dr. Hutchisson returned to the editorship of the *Journal of Applied Physics*, which he founded and first edited for the AIP. James H. Crawford, Jr., who has been editing the journal, had asked to be relieved of his duties. Dr. and Mrs. Hutchisson will reside in Palo Alto, California. Ralph A. Sawyer, chairman of the AIP Governing Board since 1959, has assumed in addition the post of acting director of the Institute. Wallace Waterfall, formerly secretary and treasurer of AIP, has been appointed acting deputy director of the Institute. He will continue his duties as secretary, a position he has held since 1946, and Gerald F. Gilbert, controller and assistant treasurer, will serve as acting treasurer.

Dr. Hutchisson has had a distinguished career as a scientist, educator, and administrator. He succeeded Henry A. Barton in 1957 as director of the AIP, and had served earlier as assistant director in 1936-37.

"Dr. Hutchisson has made signifi-

cant contributions to the growth of physics publication, the education of future physicists, and the public understanding of science during his tenure as director," said Dr. Sawyer, in commenting on his resignation.

"During his period of office, the Institute moved to new quarters in New York City and later enlarged them, became a \$5 million a year operation in publishing scientific journals and managing the business affairs of its member societies, more than doubled its headquarters staff, expanded its publication activities to 26 journals with over 50 000 pages annually, and pioneered in studying new methods of scientific information storage and retrieval.

"In addition, the Institute has given vital emphasis to the improvement of the teaching of physics in school, college, and university through a wide variety of educational and manpower activities in cooperation with member societies.

"Dr. Hutchisson inaugurated an active program aimed at documenting the history of physics, organized the Niels Bohr Library of the History of Physics, and encouraged seminars for science writers in frontier areas of physics as well as greater public knowledge of physics progress, both basic and applied."

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Hutchisson received the BS degree in physics from the Case School of Applied Science, as it was then called, the MS degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the PhD in theoretical physics from the University of Minnesota. He studied at the University of Berlin with Erwin Schrödinger in 1929-30.

He was a teaching fellow at the University of Minnesota and later served on the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh where he was advanced to professor and head of the Department of Physics. During World War II he was chief technical aide to the National Defense Research Committee on Underwater Warfare with the Office of Scientific Research

and Development in New York City.

In 1944 he was named dean of the faculty at Case. He served as acting president from 1950 to 1952 and was dean of the graduate school and director of the research division from 1955 to 1957. He founded the *Journal of Applied Physics* in 1937 and acted as editor until 1953. He was chairman of the Board of Editors of the AIP from 1948 to 1953, chairman of the Committee on Science Abstracts of The American Physical Society and the AIP, and is now vice chairman of the Abstracting Board of the International Council of Scientific Unions and chairman of the US National Committee of the International Federation for Documentation.

A former member of the US National Commission for UNESCO and of the Science Information Council of the National Science Foundation, he has also been active in the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, the Atomic Energy Commission, the National Research Council, and the International Conference on Scientific Information. Author of numerous articles for scientific and scholarly journals on physics and education, he also collaborated in writing *Atoms, Radiation and Nuclei*, now in its fourth edition, and *Laboratory Manual of Physics*. His early research was in quantum mechanical studies of molecular properties. His later work has been concerned with developments in applied physics.

Dr. Hutchisson holds honorary degrees from Case Institute of Technology and Washington College in Maryland and received the Presidential Certificate of Merit for War Research, the Gold Outstanding Achievement Medal of the University of Minnesota, the Meritorious Service Award of the Case Alumni Association, and the Distinguished Service Citation of the American Association of Physics Teachers. He is a fellow or member of several honorary and professional societies.

Dr. Sawyer has been chairman of the Governing Board of the Ameri-



Elmer Hutchisson

Fabian Bachrach



Ralph A. Sawyer

can Institute of Physics since 1959. He served previously as president of the Optical Society of America and of the Association of Graduate Schools in the Association of American Universities. Valedictorian of his class at Dartmouth College, Dr. Sawyer did graduate work in physics at the University of Chicago and served in the Navy in World War I, designing optical instruments for the Bureau of Ordnance. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1919 and was promoted successively through the ranks to professor of physics in 1930. In 1946, he was named dean of the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies and in 1959 vice president for research. He retired from the two positions this year.

During World War II, Dr. Sawyer served as a commander in the Navy. He was in charge of the Armor and Projectile Laboratory at the Naval Proving Ground in Dahlgren, Va., from 1941 to 1943, served as experimental laboratories officer in charge of testing and research laboratories at the same station from 1943 to 1945, and received the Navy Commendation Ribbon. He attained the rank of captain in the Naval Reserve in 1950 and retired in July 1957.

He was technical director of Joint Task Force One, engaged in carrying out the "Crossroads" atomic bomb tests at Bikini atoll from January to October 1946. From 1951 to 1959, he was the first director of the Michigan Memorial-Phoenix Project for the

development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

As vice president for research of the University of Michigan, he has been responsible for coordination of hundreds of the University's research projects, amounting to \$40 million a year. As a graduate dean, he administered a program for over 6000 graduate students.

Dr. Sawyer's most distinguished scholarly contributions have been in the field of spectroscopy. As a Guggenheim fellow in Berlin, he developed a new type of vacuum spectrograph and published, with Frederick Paschen, the first complete analysis of the second spectrum of a metal (aluminum). Among his early spectrographic accomplishments was the development of the first high-speed, analytical method for spectrographic analysis of steel in cooperation with H. B. Vincent. In addition, he collaborated with Dr. Vincent in creating the first analytical slide rule for the reduction of spectrographic data.

In October 1963, he was awarded the Frederic Ives Medal of the Optical Society of America for distinguished work in optics, particularly in spectroscopy. Dr. Sawyer has received honorary degrees from Dartmouth College, Wayne State University, and the Michigan College of Mining and Technology. He received the annual Pittsburgh Spectroscopy Award in 1961. In July 1963, he was named "Spectroscopist of the Month" by the magazine *Arcs and Sparks* for his contributions to scientific research and education.

He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Naval Weapons Laboratory, the Advisory Committee for the Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska, and the National Research Council. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society and the Optical Society of America. He is vice president of Section B (physics) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

His book *Experimental Spectroscopy*, an authoritative work in the field, was first published in 1944 and was recently republished in a third revised edition by Dover Press. He is the author of 83 technical articles.

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