

PHYSICS SURVEY COMMITTEE

By George E. Pake

A Physics Survey Committee has been organized within the Division of Physical Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council to study future requirements for the support of physics in relation to national needs and to the rest of science. The Committee will seek to identify the most significant research problems in various subfields of physics, as a basis for estimating levels of support necessary to assure the balanced development of the field as a whole over the next five to ten years.

This undertaking is being carried out with the support of the National Science Foundation and in cooperation with the Academy's Committee on Science and Public Policy, as part of that Committee's program to provide guidance to those parts of the federal government concerned with the public support of research in the natural sciences. The Committee on Science and Public Policy, representing the fourteen disciplinary sections of the Academy's membership, maintains general cognizance of Academy-Research Council activities in this

area and is currently sponsoring related surveys in the fields of astronomy, botany, and chemistry, and in the uses of computers in university research. Members of the Physics Survey Committee are:

George E. Pake (*chairman*), Washington University

L. H. Aller, University of California, Los Angeles

Samuel K. Allison, University of Chicago

Harvey Brooks, Harvard University

Geoffrey F. Chew, University of California, Berkeley

Henry A. Fairbank, Duke University

E. L. Goldwasser, University of Illinois

Vernon W. Hughes, Yale University

Clyde A. Hutchison, Jr., University of Chicago

R. W. Morse, Brown University

Edward P. Ney, University of Minnesota

W. K. H. Panofsky, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center

David Pines, University of Illinois

Emmanuel R. Piore, International Business Machines Corp.

Richard F. Post, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, Livermore

Roman Smoluchowski, Princeton University

C. H. Townes, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Eugene P. Wigner, Princeton University

Alan T. Waterman, recently retired director of the National Science Foundation, is serving as consultant to the Academy in the study, Alvin M. Weinberg, director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, is responsible for liaison with the Committee on Science and Public Policy.

The Committee has also appointed nine specialized panels, comprising

more than fifty scientists in addition to its own membership, to examine various subfields of physics. Panel chairmen are:

William Fowler, California Institute of Technology: *Astrophysics, Space Physics, and Cosmic Radiation*

Robert Novick, Columbia University: *Atomic and Molecular Physics*

John R. Platt, University of Chicago: *Biological Physics*

Robert L. Walker, California Institute of Technology: *Elementary Particle Physics*

Merle A. Tuve, Carnegie Institution of Washington: *Geophysics*

Stanley S. Hanna, Stanford University: *Nuclear Physics*

Marshall N. Rosenbluth, University of California, San Diego: *Plasma Physics*

Walter Kohn, University of California, San Diego: *Solid-State Physics and Condensed Matter*

C. N. Yang, Institute for Advanced Study: *Theoretical Physics*

Lewis Slack, of the Academy-Research Council staff, is serving the Committee as executive secretary.

It is expected that the Physics Survey Committee will complete its work by early fall. To supplement the data and recommendations available through its panels and to assure that the survey will benefit from the broadest possible representation of informed and thoughtful opinion, the Committee invites interested members of the physics community to submit appraisals of the status and needs of their own specialties. Appropriate observations and recommendations should be sent to the Committee, by July 1, c/o Dr. Slack, Division of Physical Sciences, NAS-NRC, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418.



George E. Pake, chairman of the new NAS-NRC Physics Survey Committee described here, is provost and professor of physics at Washington University in St. Louis.