

PHYSICS AND GOVERNMENT

Physicists and the elections

Republican and Democratic national committeemen agree that if the physics community by itself had to elect the 90th Congress, it would choose a House and Senate somewhat more Democratic than would the general population. There would be no approach to consensus on any national issue. From California to Illinois to New York, reports that **PHYSICS TODAY** has gathered from political observers among scientists indicate that physicists of both Republican and Democratic stripe are offering strong support to individual candidates, that the Johnson-Humphrey supporters of 1964 have largely repudiated the administration and that several physicists are taking the perilous jump into political life. At the national level the Republicans are making a vigorous bid to gain support from scientists. Meanwhile the Council for a Livable World, a political action group formed by Leo Szilard in 1962 and directed mainly by scientists, is mounting its biggest nonpresidential-year effort to elect key senatorial candidates.

Only in recent years have scientists taken political action along party lines. In 1959 the Democrats, then out of power, organized an advisory committee on science and technology; the Republicans later followed suit with a comparable science and engineering group that joined forces with the party's arts and sciences division. In the 1964 election, large numbers of scientists ranged themselves behind either Johnson or Goldwater and a PhD scientist, Weston Vivian (D-Mich.) won a seat in the House. This year, though a presidential off year, shows physicists surprisingly active in politics.

In California Willard Libby is campaigning on radio and TV for Republican gubernatorial candidate Ronald Reagan. Edward Condon in Colorado is making speeches for Democratic senatorial candidate Roy Romer; Condon is himself running as a Democrat for a post on the University of Colorado board of regents. In Illi-

nois John Bardeen, Edwin Goldwasser and other University of Illinois physicists are working for the election of Cameron Satterthwaite to the House. In New Jersey Harry Lustig, Martin Karplus, Seymour Koenig and others are helping the campaigns of

Democratic insurgent candidates.

Johnson-Humphrey supporters. Meanwhile many of the physicists who campaigned for the Johnson-Humphrey ticket in 1964 and welcomed the accomplishments of the first session of the 89th Congress have withdrawn

RESONANCES

The US will drop all tariffs on educational materials following the signing by President Johnson of a bill to implement the Florence agreement. The President also signed a proclamation of acceptance by the US of the Beirut audio-visual agreement. The two signings represent the culmination of more than a decade of effort by AIP, AAPT and other groups to bring duty-free educational materials to this country.

Tuition expenses will be tax deductible for any faculty member working for his MS or PhD, according to proposed Internal Revenue Service rules. Previous regulations disallowed deductions for faculty who intended to use their degrees for higher posts elsewhere. Now it will make no difference to IRS what plans a student makes so long as he is a bona fide faculty member.

Civil rights is a key factor delaying a site decision for the 200-BeV accelerator, said Atomic Energy Commission chairman Glenn Seaborg. The AEC is now checking with local officials and federal agencies for civil rights information on each site. Following a racial incident involving a Negro physicist near Brookhaven, the commission noted that all the areas under consideration have similar problems.

The National Bureau of Standards has been allotted \$30.5 million by Congress for its 1967 basic appropriations. The amount is some \$1.5 million less than the bureau asked for but \$1.8 million over last year. NBS sources indicated that the bureau this year came off better than they had expected, considering the depressed climate for science funding now prevailing in Washington. The appropriations will allow over \$1 million for expanding NBS programs, an amount somewhat better than in previous years when increases provided for little more than the rising cost of living.

Fragmented congressional jurisdiction over science could be resolved by forming science and technology study groups within Congress, says the House Subcommittee on Science, Research and Development. Such groups would consist of delegates from each committee concerned with a complex science program. Delegates would meet and survey an entire program to provide a comprehensive view prior to considering any legislation.