

NEWS OF THE INSTITUTE

Van Zandt Williams dies

Van Zandt Williams, director of the American Institute of Physics, died suddenly in London, England, on 13 May of a heart attack. He had gone there on 8 May to consult with the Royal Society, the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society and other groups concerning cooperative physics information efforts.

Williams became director of the Institute on 1 April 1965 after an ad hoc committee, headed by R. Bruce Lindsay, dean of the graduate school at Brown University, had recommended Williams' name to the AIP governing board and the board had subsequently approved it. During the relatively short period that Williams served as director, he spent several months studying institute activities and problems, particularly the role of AIP in publishing and documentation. As a result of his concern he took the initiative in developing a comprehensive plan for a physics information

system in which AIP would take a central position. He was also responsible for several proposals now before the National Science Foundation that would greatly expand AIP efforts in the information field. These include a concentrated attack on indexing problems, use of computers for journal composition and creation of such secondary outputs as abstracting and "current awareness" services and indexing services for information storage and retrieval. Williams also played a leading role in AIP's proposed study of information exchange among scientists before their research appears in journals.

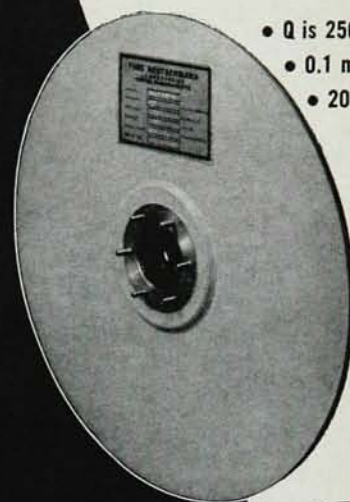
At the time of his death Williams was working on plans to expand additional AIP programs in education and manpower, history and philosophy of physics and public understanding of science.

Williams' obituary, by a group of his colleagues, is on page 115. A tribute by Ralph A. Sawyer and Wallace Waterfall is on page 136. □



AIP'S GOVERNING BOARD AT MARCH MEETING. Back row (left to right): E. R. Piore, Paul M. Routly, John A. Sanderson, A. C. Helmholz, Elizabeth A. Wood, I. Rudnick. Middle row: E. U. Condon, Melba N. Phillips, H. R. Crane, Herbert A. Erf, Robert S. Marvin, Archie I. Mahan. Front row: Shirley L. Quimby, William W. Havens Jr, Vincent E. Parker, Ralph A. Sawyer, Mary E. Wurga, R. B. Lindsay. Not shown: Samuel A. Goudsmit, Frederick Seitz, C. H. Townes, John A. Wheeler, Arnold B. Arons, Edward C. Creutz.

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