



LETTERS

to the EDITOR

Registration Fee

Sir:

At the close of the Seattle meeting of the American Physical Society Dr. Darrow discussed the financial plight of the Society. Earlier this year it had been proposed that the abstracts of papers given at meetings no longer be printed in the Physical Review, a step aimed at economy. Because of the objections raised by members, Dr. Darrow proposed that the programs of meetings be skeletonized to titles as an alternative to the original proposal of ceasing to publish the abstracts in the Physical Review.

Both proposals are highly undesirable. The first because very frequently valuable accounts of preliminary work are given in abstracts which do not form the substance of a printed paper for a long time thereafter and sometimes not at all. The second is undesirable because most frequently members need abstracts to determine whether they will go to a particular meeting at all, and if they go, which sessions they will attend and what questions to ask. We would like to suggest an alternative plan which would help the treasury, according to Dr. Darrow, as much as, or more than, either of the economy moves discussed at Seattle.

Our proposal is that a registration fee of at least one dollar be charged at all meetings of the Society. Most other professional societies charge such fees. We feel that members attending meetings would prefer to pay the registration fee rather than to have programs in which only the titles of papers, without the abstracts, are printed.

This letter has been discussed with the following, who are all members of the American Physical Society at these [Westinghouse Research] laboratories: Stephen J. Angello, J. W. Brownson, Donald K. Coles, J. W. Coltman, William S. Corak, L. H. Crandon, J. A. Cyphers, Thomas W. Dakin, Edward J. Duckett, R. E. Fox, M. Garbuny, P. H. Gleichauf, J. E. Goldman, William E. Good, D. J. Grove, Charles F. Hill, Richard H. Hughes, W. J. Hushley, J. A. Hutcheson, B. Jennings, J. S. Lagarias, Howard A. Leiter, Richard L. Longini, A. O. McCoubrey, Ralph O. McIntosh, Kirk A. Oplinger, Henry H. Plotkin, Edward V. Somers, K. H. Sun, Roland W. Ure, Jr., R. E. Warren, Aaron Wexler, and T. D. Yenson.

These members all endorse and approve the suggestions made in this letter.

W. M. BRUBAKER

JOSEPH SLEPIAN

R. C. MASON

East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Short Enough

Sir:

I am in complete agreement with everything Dr. Corson writes about the publication policy in his letter in the June issue. Above all, let's not condense papers any more!

E. GERJUOY

Los Angeles, California

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