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STATE AND SOCIETY

entist. And a low-temperature physicist remarked, "The subjects at meetings in my field overlap. We see the same people most of the time."

Small topical meetings were preferred by the sample over large interdisciplinary conferences, with optimal size ranging from 40 to 200 participants, depending on the length of the gathering. "There is better rapport at the small meetings. The people are more open about their ignorance and more is accomplished," were the general comments. But large conferences were held up as valuable employment market places and as opportunities for physicists to learn of other disciplines and meet colleagues.

Mössbauer and Alfvén Seek to Emigrate to US

The British are not the only ones who have difficulty keeping their physicists. In recent weeks Rudolf Mössbauer of West Germany has expressed a desire to migrate to the US, and Hannes Alfvén of Sweden has said he will definitely come.

Cooling down of many European economies has caused a leveling out in the growth rates for research in several European nations. Consequently the US is becoming once again the only nation that can offer adequate support to its scientists.

Nobel laureate Mössbauer, who is professor of physics at Munich Technical University, said that he is thinking of migrating to the US out of "disgust over budget cuts, unkept promises and administrative obstacles" that are hindering his work. Alfvén, professor of plasma physics at Stockholm Technological Institute, said that he would emigrate to a US university in the fall. He is leaving Sweden, he noted, to protest what he considers insufficient funds for research. "My work is no longer desired in this country," he said. "The essential parts of the research I have built up during more than 25 years may now be broken down because of this reduction [in support]." But the Swedes had apparently provided Alfvén all the support they could afford. Said the Swedish minister of

education, "Alfvén is one of the most favored scientists in the country and thus had little cause for complaint." Bo Lehnert, an associate of Alfvén's, indicated he might accompany Alfvén to the US.

NSF Will Fund Research At Texas, Duke, Indiana

Plans are under way to build a fusion laboratory at the University of Texas, a semiautomatic scanning and measuring facility for bubble-chamber film at Duke University and a 200-MeV cyclotron at Indiana University. These new facilities are some of the projects earmarked for physics and other disciplines under new National Science Foundation university science development grants totalling \$11.3 million.

Texas intends to strengthen its resources in relativity, astrophysics and plasma science. Besides opening eight new faculty posts in these areas, Texas plans to build a fusion laboratory and a high-resolution radio telescope capable of making unambiguous correlations between light and radio sources.

Duke will use over \$500 000 of NSF funds to support two new appointments in high-energy physics and construct an up-to-date device for recognizing and encoding patterns. PEPR (precision encoding pattern recognition), developed by Irwin Pless of MIT in 1961, will enable the four members of the Duke high-energy group under Earle Fowler to measure more than 50 000 events per year from bubble-chamber film. Provided additional support is forthcoming, Fowler hopes to incorporate a PDP-6 computer (48 000, 36-bit words of magnetic-core memory) into the facility. The Duke PEPR is expected to become operational in about two years. During the past year, the Duke group have performed experiments using film from the Berkeley and Brookhaven bubble chambers.

A new cyclotron, a pattern recognition facility, a new solid-state program and expansion in theoretical physics are contemplated by the Indiana physics department. The NSF grant provides for large-model studies of a 200-MeV sector-focused cyclotron to replace Indiana's prewar 1.1-meter cy-