

Graduate Enrollment Near Normal Despite Draft, Budget Cuts

Threat of the draft and federal budget cuts appear to have changed the plans of some individual students, but graduate physics departments expected near normal enrollments as classes resumed this fall. Such was the finding of a preliminary survey taken during the summer by the American Institute of Physics. A more detailed survey, begun 1 Oct. after classes resumed, will provide exact numbers.

The surveys are part of a continuing effort by AIP's Committee on Physics and Society (COMPAS) to assess trends in physics, particularly the impact of major shifts in government policy. The first, conducted last winter, was concerned only with the effects of federal budget cuts (PHYSICS TODAY, April, page 87). The October survey will cover both enrollment and finances.

This year's June graduates were the first class to cope with the elimination of graduate-student draft deferments. Betty Vetter, executive director of the Scientific Manpower Commission had warned (PHYSICS TODAY, June, page 71) that her commission and the Council of Graduate Schools had found that 65% of potential first-year graduate students could be affected by the announced policy of drafting older men first. Since she spoke, however, draft calls have been unusually low; the November call for 10 000 men is the lowest in three years.

793 departments received questionnaires in the summer survey; nearly half, including a majority of the graduate schools, responded. Department chairmen said that of the physics majors graduating from schools that offered only a bachelor's degree, 24% fewer than last year planned to go on to graduate school. For graduates of schools also offering a master's or PhD, the corresponding figure was 19%. The number of those going into military service (voluntarily or otherwise) rose 12% and 8% respectively for the two classes of institution.

At the same time graduate depart-

ment chairmen said they expected nearly as many first-year students as in a "normal" year. A few chairmen said they were admitting students this year who would not have been admitted a year ago.

A reduction in the amount of money available for support of graduate students was an important factor. One prestigious school reported that of 105 first-year graduate students admitted, only 29 accepted: Last year the same school had nearly 100 students beginning graduate work. Many of those who chose to go elsewhere, or not to attend graduate school at all, were unable to obtain the financial aid they needed.

Schools faced with a potential drop in graduate students made other plans to staff elementary laboratories and recitation sections. One chairman said frankly he was prepared to drop the labs. Others said they might use undergraduates or spread the

teaching load of their faculty members. Many mentioned "4-F's, foreigners and females," all unaffected by the draft.

House Committee Hits Foreign Research; DoD Trims Spending

One victim of this year's round of federal research budget cutting is support of scientific projects in foreign lands. After issuance of a report by the House Research and Technical Programs Subcommittee criticizing grants to foreign scientists, the Department of Defense ordered a tightening up.

Rep. Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.), chairman of the Committee on Government Operations subcommittee, estimated annual spending for research projects outside the US at about \$20 million and noted that only about one fourth is being spent in underdeveloped countries, lands that need dollar aid or have surpluses of US-owned

RESONANCES

East-West scientific exchange continues despite the August invasion of Czechoslovakia. Both the State Department and the Foreign Secretary's office of the National Academy of Sciences report only temporary disruption immediately following the invasion. The US did cancel some high-visibility exchange programs, including concert tours and US participation in a trade fair.

Physicists' response to the invasion from at least one group was immediate. About 260 of some 800 attending a high-energy conference in Vienna signed a message to their colleagues in Czechoslovakia deploring the invasion and expressing "fervent hope for a prompt departure of foreign troops from their country."

A Czechoslovak appeal for physicists around the world to join in protest was received by PHYSICS TODAY a few days later. In a four-page "appendix" to the *Czechoslovak Journal of Physics A and B*, the editors asked for help. The final three lines said Soviet troops had occupied their offices on 22 Aug. and "prevented any editorial activity."

Italy and West Germany will support the 300-GeV accelerator planned by CERN. Austria, Belgium and France already had agreed; Great Britain had dropped out. British withdrawal has forced a scaling down of the plans; revisions were to be announced 2 Oct.

Canada has stopped work on its 3.8-meter telescope. The government had already spent \$4.5 million on the British Columbia project.