

function of a scientific society. In point of fact, most of the undersigned voted with the majority on that issue.

ARNOLD MOORE, RICHARD S. CRANDALL, MURRAY A. LAMPERT, MAURICE GLICKSMA, HARRY L. LIND, JONATHAN GITTLEMAN, BENJAMIN ABELES, A. AMITH, BARRY TAYLOR, W. RONALD ROACH, MARTIN RAYL, STUART B. BURGER, ARTHUR MILLER, ALLEN ROTHWART, LIONEL FRIEDMAN, HERBERT A. WEAKLIEM.

RCA Laboratories, Princeton

... a group of physicists at Los Alamos signed a petition to William W. Havens Jr. ... that "... the Society not hold meetings in Chicago until there are definite indications that respect for people and fairness govern the actions of the officials of Chicago. ..."

LEON HELLER

Los Alamos, N. M.

... I urge the American Physical Society to join with other professional organizations in a convention boycott ...

I. RICHARD LAPIDUS

Stevens Institute of Technology

Enclosed is a petition that many of us at the University of Maryland have signed and circulated. We feel it might be of interest to your readers who might like to circulate a similar petition at their institutions:

"... we urge that the APS and AAPT move the 1970 Annual Meeting to another city and refrain from scheduling future meetings in Chicago until that city can guarantee that the rights and dignity of its visitors will be respected."

MICHAEL P. GREENE

VICTOR KORENMAN

University of Maryland

A warning as alternative

I have just received a copy of a letter to you by Edward Gerjuoy of this university suggesting that no further American Physical Society meetings be held in Chicago until the safety of attendants can be assured. I would like to suggest as an alternative that any time an APS meeting is held in Chicago, the following warning should be inserted in the *Bulletin*:

"Attendants are cautioned not to violate city ordinances, throw rocks and bottles at policemen and spend

more than a few minutes insulting a policeman with filthy language because if they do *all* of these things, they may be struck a few times and have to spend a few hours in jail. In addition, attendants should not assume that our meeting has a right to choose the President of the United States since we are only a few thousand, and 200 million other people are entitled to have a say in the matter."

The reason that I present this alternative to Gerjuoy's suggestion is not to defend the actions of the Chicago police—they should certainly be willing to stand up to a little personal abuse as I'm sure all of us would—but because I feel that there are a few differences between the actions of the Chicago police and those of dictatorships with which they are compared. Most victims of dictatorships commit somewhat lesser crimes—being born a Jew, a Pole or a Russian is perhaps somewhat less of a transgression than even verbally attacking a policeman—and the punishments they typically inflicted were somewhat more severe as evidenced by the fact that the average life of the victims was a few months—if existing in a concentration camp can be called "life"—whereas none of the victims of the Chicago police was killed or seriously injured, and none was even detained involuntarily more than a few hours. In addition, it is difficult to see the threat of national dictatorship in locally controlled police forces; there are thousands of police forces in this country each controlled by men of different political leanings.

BERNARD L. COHEN

University of Pittsburgh

Overmanagement a danger

Recently (PHYSICS TODAY, June), both your editorial and Rep. Craig Hosmer called for more systematic management and coordination in scientific research.

In industry, these procedures have been successful in solving specific problems such as cutting the production costs or maintaining better inventory controls. Certainly, systematic management in scientific research can produce beautiful laboratories and acquire impressive computers, but this is neither a necessary nor sufficient condition for brilliant scientific work. We have seen Nobel Prizes coming from the glorified tinker toys of Francis Crick and James Watson, the phonograph turntable of Rudolf Möss-

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