

AIP, APS Move To Offset Page-Charge Revenue Drop

US publishers of physics literature are arguing publicly and privately for a continued payment of page charges by authors' institutions, but they are moving simultaneously to minimize potential losses of page-charge revenue.

The American Physical Society announced (*Phys. Rev. Letters*, 21, 1301, 1968) that effective immediately authors will be asked when their paper is accepted to state whether their institutions will honor page charges. Beginning 1 Jan. the number of pages to be published in *The Physical Review* will be determined by page-charge income.

In this issue of *PHYSICS TODAY* (page 126) H. William Koch, director of the American Institute of Physics, announces that all AIP-owned journals will require a statement of whether charges will be honored before processing of the manuscript begins. No discrimination will result, however.

Samuel A. Goudsmit, APS editor-in-chief, began his announcement: "We have learned that some institutions have decided to ameliorate budget cuts by suddenly stopping payment of page charges, after having honored them for decades. This will have a disastrous effect on the continuation of our journals."

APS expects a deficit of about \$200 000 in 1968 even if the customary page-charge payment rate of 86% holds up. Goudsmit said each drop of 10 percentage points in the payment rate would cost APS another \$70 000 in the remainder of 1968; each 10-point drop in 1969 would cost \$140 000.

Exact current rates of payment are not available. Under present procedures APS and AIP do not know whether the charges will be honored until the paper appears in print. The alarm was set off not by a substantial drop in payment but by the public decision of some administrators at research institutions not to honor the charges.

Federal agencies have approved payment of the charges under a policy established by the Federal Council on Science and Technology in 1961. The potential problem now facing journals has been brought informally

to the attention of Donald F. Hornig, the President's science adviser.

Speaking for the APS, Goudsmit noted that page charges pay the prepress costs of journal production. This has kept subscription prices low enough so that physicists can afford their own copies of journals. Without page charges paying up to 70% of the production cost, he noted, the APS-member subscription rate for *The Physical Review* could rise from \$50 to \$600. The price of *Physical Review Letters* could jump from \$15 to \$175. Circulation presumably would be reduced accordingly.

Since APS initiated page charges in 1931 for *The Physical Review*, they have been adopted by member and institute journals of AIP, the American Chemical Society, and other scientific organizations. Most European journals, on the other hand, do not use page charges.

ACS expects a 10% drop in page-charge revenue by mid-1969 as a result of reduced research budgets. The society plans nevertheless to extend page charges to four more journals as of 1 Jan. and to raise the charge from \$35 to \$50 a page. In 1969, 13 of the society's 20 journals will be partially supported by page charges.

In 1931 the APS Council started with a charge of \$2 a page. On the basis that research is incomplete until results are published, the charge was expected to be paid by the author's institution but was not obligatory. The price included 100 reprints.

Success of the plan prompted other AIP member societies to adopt the plan under a Rockefeller Foundation guarantee that for six years it would underwrite the cost of papers not supported by page charges. Even though the program was extended for a year, grants totaled only \$22 000. The

RESONANCES

The American Physical Society will meet in Chicago in 1970 as scheduled if the Council accepts the recommendation of its executive committee. In reply to members who had protested events there during the Democratic convention and asked that the meeting be moved, President John Bardeen said the society had little choice but to honor its contracts. Jay Orear of Cornell has pledged to raise the question during the New York meeting on 3-6 Feb.

At least one scientist was elected to a major public office on 5 Nov. Republican Russell W. Peterson, a chemist who is director of research at du Pont, defeated Delaware Gov. Charles L. Terry Jr, a Democrat. But Weston E. Vivian of Michigan failed to regain his seat in the House, losing to Republican incumbent Marvin Esch by 13 500 votes.

President-elect Nixon is committed to more money for science, especially in the field of new weapons. But he is also committed to economy, and will have to deal with a Congress basically unchanged from the 90th. Nixon had not named a science adviser by 20 Nov.; former Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Lewis L. Strauss was his principal organizer of scientist-supporters during the campaign. Donald F. Hornig, the current presidential science adviser, begins work for Eastman Kodak 1 Jan.