

## LETTERS

### Discussing the APS amendment

With this issue *PHYSICS TODAY* abandons the practice, followed in the past three months, of publishing part or all of essentially every letter written to the magazine on the proposed amendment to the constitution of the American Physical Society. The amendment has the intention of permitting the members of the society to pass resolutions on "any matter of concern to the society." Writers in great numbers have accepted the invitation, printed in the *APS Bulletin* and in *PHYSICS TODAY*, to express their feelings on whether this amendment should pass or fail.

In abandoning the practice of presenting at least some of each letter our feeling is that most arguments have been heard and most letters are repeating or emphasizing thoughts already expressed. Only when a contribution appears to be in some way unique do we plan to print letters on this subject in the future. Our pages are strictly limited and only by displacing articles or departments elsewhere can we continue to publish a large "Letters" department each month devoted exclusively to one question.

All communications that bear on the question are copied and entered into two looseleaf notebooks, one of which is kept here at the *PHYSICS TODAY* office and the other at the APS office in the same building. The table of contents starts with a letter from Charles Schwartz to the editor of *PHYSICS TODAY* last 28 May and continues through a few more than 100 items to the present. The material is available for study to anyone who wishes to peruse these books at the American Institute of Physics. Copies can be made available elsewhere to anyone who will pay the cost of duplication.

We do intend that each person be heard, at least in part. Thus we offer here the names of those persons who have written to us about the amendment but whose letters have not been previously published.

The following have written that they are in favor of the amendment:

D.A.A.S. Narayana Rao, Texas Southern University; John Brunn, Chabot College.

The following have written that they are opposed:

Andrew F. Gabrysh, Irvona, Pa.; Lee M. Hecht, Chicago, Ill.; H. R. Westerman, Madison, N. J.; Gerald I. Farmer, Gaithersburg, Md.; Ronald B. Standler, U. of Denver; L. J. Gutay, Purdue U.; John D. Kleis, Fansteel Metallurgical Corporation, Chicago; Perry Pollins, Lexington, Mass.; H. Hurwitz Jr, General Electric Co., Schenectady, N. Y.; J. G. Castle Jr, U of Pittsburgh.

The following have written in favor but with stringent qualifications:

Luther Davis, Wayland, Mass.; Robert T. Bates, Richardson, Tex.; Lawrence Cranberg, U. of Virginia.

The following has written against but favors some restricted political action: Arnold F. Clark, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, Livermore, Calif.

In addition, we have received the following opinions:

I am against the intrusion of political debate into the activities of the society, but since you have prejudged the issue by publishing political advertisements and by stating political arguments, if the matter comes to a vote, I shall have to vote for political involvement in the hope that the balance may be redressed.

J. W. ALLEN  
Cambridge, England

The tradition of not mixing with politics was already broken when, for the first time, the APS president invited President Johnson for a *political speech* during the last annual APS meeting at Washington, D. C. Should we also consider these invitations more seriously from now on?

CHIA-GEE WANG  
Cambridge, Mass.

We will continue this practice until the ballot is mailed. —THE EDITORS

### Schwartz's rebuttal

I feel obliged to reply to some of the objections that have been raised against the proposed APS constitutional amendment in letters in this

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