

us know that the APS has taken policy positions and has the right to do so, but it usually is the council of the APS in its own name which has taken these policy positions. Conceivably, the majority of the membership could object to an action of the council. The Schwartz amendment gives a mechanism for at least finding the opinion of the entire membership on a policy matter. If the membership feels the council is somewhat negligent in taking a position on a very important or crucial public issue that they could be taking a position on, the Schwartz amendment is a mechanism to bring such a thing to a vote.

"Now one would worry and feel that there should be some limiting safeguard because you don't want everything under the sun being brought to a vote. Such a safeguard is the wording that it must be a 'matter of concern to the society.' The legal adviser of the APS interprets that wording as requiring that the resolution to be voted on must be consistent with the purpose and the constitution of the society. If 1% of the membership proposed a resolution outright condemning the Vietnam war, the APS council would have to rule that out of order as inconsistent with the purpose of the society. I consider that a quite adequate safeguard; so I think the Schwartz amendment is a useful one that would make the APS more democratic." —JJ

Gordon Conferences to Offer 72 Sessions at Seven Places

The annual Gordon Research Conferences, established to stimulate research in universities, foundations and industrial laboratories, will be held in New Hampshire and Washington this year. The 72 sessions in many scientific disciplines are split up between six New Hampshire schools and the Crystal Inn, Crystal Mountain, Wash. The eastern sessions run from 10 June to 30 Aug., and the western conferences run from 24 June to 23 Aug.

The conferences, which are highly informal in nature, mix scheduled speakers with discussion groups and try to foster a free and meaningful exchange of ideas. The content of the talks and discussions stresses the latest developments and suggestions for progress, rather than reviews of

known information. To promote free exchanges of thoughts, the conferences are not the source of any published proceedings, and the participants agree to use no information gathered there without the specific authorization of the person making the contribution.

Admission to the conferences is by application, available from the office of the director, W. George Parks, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R. I. Applications should be received two months in advance of the conference date.

Some of the more interesting physics-related conferences are "Particle-Solid Interactions" (15–19 July), "Solid-State Studies in Ceramics" (29 July–2 Aug.), "Chemistry and Physics of Solids" (12–16 Aug.), "Nonlinear Optical Effects" (26–30 Aug.), all at Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, N. H.; "Plasma Physics" (1–5 July), "Nuclear Structure Physics" (29 July–2 Aug.), "Thin Films" (19–23 Aug.), at Tilton School, Tilton, N. H.; "Dynamics of Molecular Collisions" (17–21 June), Proctor Academy, Andover, N. H.; "Chemistry and Physics of Isotopes" (24–28 June), Holderness School, Holderness, N. H.; and "Quantum Solids and Fluids" (22–26 July), Crystal Inn.

CCP Panel Seeks to Improve Teaching at Two-Year Colleges

A special panel on physics in two-year colleges has been set up by the Commission of College Physics. The improvement of physics teaching at the junior college is the task of the panel. In fulfilling this aim, the panel plans to help develop physics courses for the student in vocational and technical studies.

The chairman of the newly-formed group is Peggy Dixon of Montgomery Junior College, Takoma Park, Md. The panel consists of a number of other junior-college physics teachers, as well as a representative of the commission, Philip DiLavore, and a representative of the American Institute of Physics, Arnold A. Strassenburg.

The first project of the panel is gathering together a list of the physics teachers at such institutions and identifying the problems peculiar to the two-year college. Interested physics teachers are invited to contact the commission, 4321 Hartwick Road, College Park, Md. □

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