

Economy Drive in Congress Hits Science Legislation

The news from Washington is bleak for the sciences in general and physics in particular. The money bills have had hard going through Congress and the already austere fund requests by the Administration have been further chopped by economy-minded congressmen. The National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Office of Science and Technology and the Atomic Energy Commission were all cut back. And other bills were still up in the air, including copyright and patent legislation and a National Science Foundation reorganization bill.

The National Science Foundation was hardest hit and saw its budgeted \$500 million cut 20% on its way through the House last month. The amount requested for fiscal 1969 was only about 1% above this year's level to begin with, so the cutback deals a severe blow to NSF plans. The House particularly recommended cuts in the NSF fellowship grant programs and in its institutional-support programs, but put a spending floor of \$37.6 million under NSF activities in supporting the training of secondary school science and mathematics teachers. An amendment to give NSF officials free rein in using this money in other programs was offered by Rep. Emilio Q. Daddario (D-Conn.), chairman of the Subcommittee on Science, Research and Development, but was defeated. Another amendment was accepted and added a prohibition on the distribution of NSF funds to dissenting college students who disobey university regulations. In bringing the bill to the House floor, Rep. Joe L. Evins (D-Tenn.) noted, "While this is a large reduction, it certainly does not indicate any lack of interest in science and research by our committee."

NSF officials could expect no help from the Senate. A few years back the Senate was less economy minded than it is now and managed to restore half the cuts made by the House. In the last couple of years, though, the Senate has either approved House action on NSF or has agreed to take the House figure during conferences

to iron out differences between the House and Senate versions.

NASA, OST and AEC. The NSF appropriations were part of a catch-all Independent Offices Appropriations Bill, which also included funds for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Office of Science and Technology. NASA's appropriations were cut to \$4 008 223 000, or \$363 177 000 less than requested. This level is about 14% below fiscal 1968, a loss of nearly \$600 million, and almost \$1 billion below fiscal 1967. The big item for NASA is the Apollo program, funded at \$2.2 billion for next year. The Office of Science and Technology was given \$1 750 000, an 8% cut.

Earlier Congress passed and sent to the President a bill authorizing \$2-618 301 000 for Atomic Energy Commission activities in fiscal 1969. This is significantly below the \$2.9 billion requested by the administration. The big casualty here was the nonmilitary atomic energy program, cut 23% from

what was requested. Physical research programs fared better, with a loss of only 1% from the requested level. Congress approved \$277 million for physical research: high-energy physics gets \$119.4 million, medium-energy physics \$11.6 million and low-energy physics \$30.1 million. Controlled thermonuclear research will get \$27 million. The hopes for a high level of funding for the Weston accelerator did not survive the request stage. The bill signed by the President authorizes \$25 million compared with \$242.7 million the AEC originally asked for the coming year. Instead, increased construction funding is being put off (see Resonances, below).

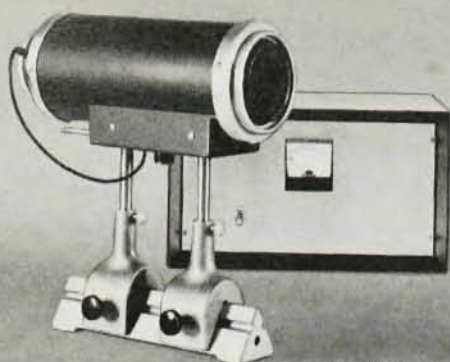
Other bills of interest to the physics community were faring badly, too. The copyright revision bill, which passed the House a year ago, is sitting in Senate committee although hearings have been completed. A bill to change patent procedures is in a similar fix with hearings completed in both houses but no action foreseen. A rider

RESONANCES

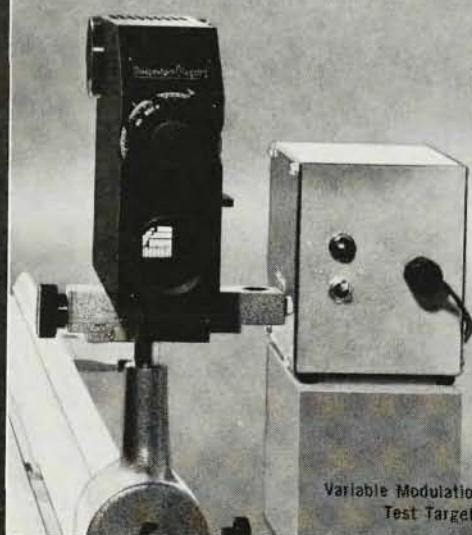
The "Schwartz Amendment" was rejected by members of the American Physical Society. The tally on the amendment, which would have allowed APS members to vote on resolutions on "any matter of concern to the society," was 9214 against and 3553 for. Altogether 13 201 members, about 55%, voted.

The Weston accelerator is still in trouble. The House has appropriated only \$7.1 million for the 200-GeV National Accelerator Laboratory instead of the \$25 million authorized last spring. The action would prohibit the start of construction and the purchase of equipment this year. The bill has gone to the Senate, where hearings were to begin on 28 June. Officials of Universities Research Association, which will operate the accelerator, say the action will delay the project beyond 1972, when Weston expected to produce a beam.

The proposed CERN accelerator is in trouble too. Late in June the British government announced it would not join in building the 300-GeV machine. The action came despite recommendations of government advisory groups, including the Science Research Council, that Britain should join.



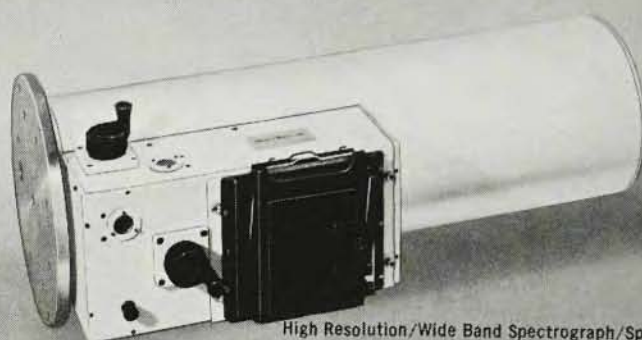
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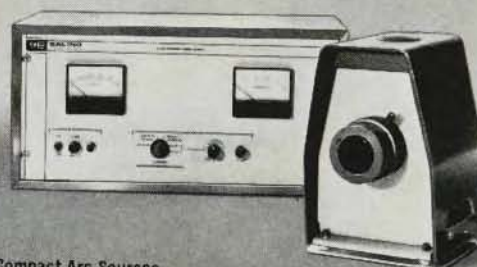
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to the Senate-passed bill instituting a 10% income tax surcharge and a \$6-billion spending cut would have restored the tax-free status of advertising income of publications of tax-exempt institutions. The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that such income is taxable and this ruling affects such magazines as the *National Geographic* and *PHYSICS TODAY*. The rider did not survive Senate-House conference.

The bill to reorganize NSF cleared the Senate late in May with limited changes from the House version passed last year. It would push NSF toward increased support of social sciences and applied research. It would also relieve the National Science Board of operating responsibility for NSF and establish NSB as formulator of a national science policy.

Economies caused by the \$6-billion spending cut will hit science and research programs already approved. Science officials fear, with defense projects having high priority and other government programs being politically untouchable, that science will be sacrificed first. But, one congressional observer pointed out, perhaps it is better for science to be chopped now than for the entire economy, science along with it, to be damaged for years to come by not achieving a surtax this year.

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Visiting Physicist Program Expands in Its Twelfth Year

The Visiting Scientists Program in Physics enters its 12th year in September on the upswing after its financial support by the National Science Foundation had been cut almost in half during 1967-68.

During 1966-67 the program reached its peak when the NSF provided the necessary funds for 280 visits. The reduced NSF budget that cut the number of visits to 140 in 1967-68 was due to the reduction in congressional support for NSF. The increase for the coming year, reflected in a 1968-69 budget of almost \$27 000, will allow physicists to visit about 170 institutions.

The visiting physicists program is a joint venture of the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Institute of Physics, administered by Mark W. Zemansky, AAPT executive secretary. The two organizations as sponsors pay travel expenses

and an honorarium of \$50 for each day spent on campus. The host institutions provide meals and lodgings for the visitors.

Under the program, small liberal-arts colleges that have a physics-major program but no graduate program benefit from the experience of physicists who have been active in research, teaching and administration.

The selection of a particular physicist to visit a participating college is made after careful consideration has been given to the wishes of both the college and the visitor. The matching of visitor to college takes in the needs of the college and the visitor's availability and field of research.

Applications requesting participation in the 1968-69 Visiting Scientists Program will be mailed to physics department chairmen early in September. The completed participation request form should be returned to the Visiting Scientists office at AIP before 1 Oct.

Constitution, Budget Adopted For European Physical Society

Further progress toward the establishment of the European Physical Society was made in Prague early last month when 60 delegates from 18 countries met and adopted a constitution and a preliminary 1969 budget. Present plans call for the formal foundation of the society in Geneva during a business meeting scheduled for 25-26 Sept. The inaugural general conference is planned for 8-11 April in Florence.

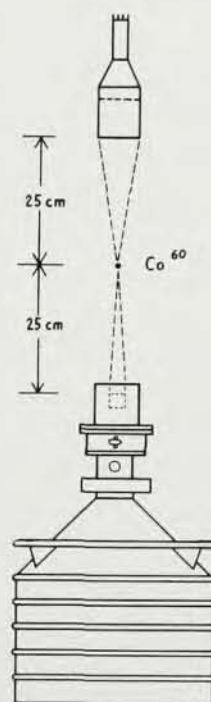
The meeting in Prague was the fourth for the steering committee that is working to bring the society into existence (*PHYSICS TODAY*, October, page 81). The committee has its headquarters at the Ecole de Physique de l'Université in Geneva and is represented at the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society in London. The group plans to establish an office in Prague too. Publication of a newsletter will start soon and by 1971 the society will have a general readership journal similar to *PHYSICS TODAY*.

L. Etienne Amberg, scientific secretary of the steering committee, reports that an interim executive committee will be elected in Geneva in September. This committee will prepare for the general assembly in April during which the first council and first executive committee will be elected.

A scientific meeting will accompany the Florence business session. Papers

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