informed of the arguments pro and con through the discussion in PHYSICS TODAY and that an expression of a council opinion might be considered unfairly prejudicial to the vote. The alternative view was that the council has the responsibility as the elected representatives of the membership to study carefully questions which may have an effect on the future of the society and inform the membership of its position. In a split vote, the latter view prevailed.

The council decided that its statement should reflect the differences in opinion as to whether or not the council should take a position and should be in the form of a separate communication rather than be placed in the instructional letter accompanying the ballot. It was not possible to publish the statement in the *Bulletin* or in PHYSICS TODAY without delaying the vote into the summer period. After being informed that a separate mailing would cost over $2000, the council decided to send the statement in the same envelope as the ballot. In view of questions raised, this economy move was perhaps unwise.

For possible guidance in future cases, the council plans to review procedures for dealing with amendments submitted by petition of 1% of the members. It will welcome suggestions members may have for handling such cases in the long term best interest of the society.

JOHN BARDEEN
President, APS
W. W. HAVENS, JR
Executive Secretary, APS

AIP as an arm of government

A while ago I received a letter soliciting my coöperation with the National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel. Among other things it states, "Your coöperation and assistance are vital to the maintenance of a useful National Register which is used not only to obtain an up-to-date profile of our profession, *but to identify those whose special knowledge and ability might suddenly be of paramount importance to our nation* (my italics).

I do not particularly want to discuss the pros and cons of the National Register. The maintenance of such a register is a legitimate activity of government, and were I to receive the aforementioned letter from the Defense Department or the National Science Foundation, I would not give it a second thought. This letter, however, was on AIP notepaper, was signed by the director of AIP and enclosed a return envelope addressed to AIP.

Since I am not a US citizen but merely an expatriate Englishman, it may be that my perspective is confused. It seems to me, however, that if the American Physical Society is to remain remote from politics, as I believe it should, then AIP, of which APS is a large component part, should not participate directly in governmental activity.

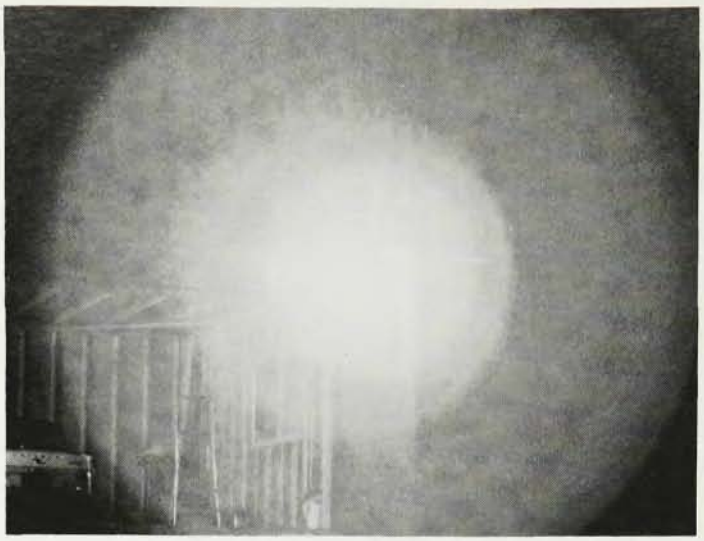
It really boils down to whether AIP is primarily an organization of physicists, most of whom happen to be Americans, or rather an organization of Americans who happen to be physicists. If the latter, then acting as an arm of the US government, together with the necessary concomitant political debate, might indeed be appropriate. I, however, would not wish to belong to such an organization.

R. F. LEVER
Putnam Valley, N. Y.

THE AIP DIRECTOR REPLIES: We welcome this opportunity to answer this protest with regard to the coöperation of the American Institute of Physics with the National Science Foundation in maintaining the Physics and Astronomy Section of the National Register.

Lever and we do seem to be agreed that the National Register is a legitimate activity of the government. In addition, we feel that it is the source of the most authentic data on the scientific community available and, as such, is a most desirable activity.

Prior to the establishment of the National Science Foundation, rosters of scientific and engineering personnel were assembled by the Office of Naval Research and the federal Office of Education. The shortcomings of this procedure were soon apparent and the Foundation recognized that a coöperative effort between the government (NSF) and the scientific societies was the most efficient way to get the job done. The societies have access to information, such as current addresses of their members, that are difficult for government to maintain. The societies, for their part, foresaw the advantages of having available to them better profiles of their professions than had ever before been



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The scene above was photographed with a Honeywell Pentax under identical conditions except that in one case an HEA coated 15-element zoom lens was used. The photographs were taken at night, and all exposures were made at f4.5 on Kodak TRI-X film at approximately 20 meters from the scene. The interior of the garage was illuminated from within by two 100-watt lamps which were hidden from view. A glare source was present in the form of a 150-watt PAR lamp pointing directly at the camera.

The reduction of stray light and improved contrast exhibited by the HEA optic is quite apparent. (See, for example, the garage window.) And contrast can be improved even further than shown here depending on the lighting conditions and the particular type and number of elements coated.

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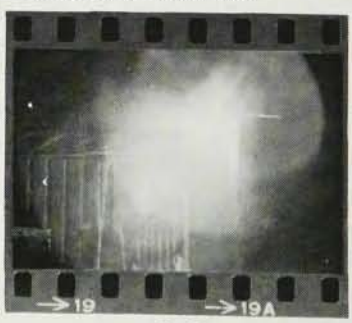
HEA



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The position of the glare source was changed to show variance of stray light —which is significantly reduced in the HEA frames.

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possible. AIP and other societies, therefore, agreed to act as contractors to the government for this activity.

In spite of this agreement, however, one should not assume that AIP is any more in favor of all, or any, policies of our government than are various industrial and business firms or their employees who act in one or another capacity as contractors to some government agency. Instead, one should assume that AIP as a federation of scientific societies undertakes activity under contract to the government on a nonpolitical, technical basis for the benefit of its member societies and members. Therefore we at AIP do not feel that our participation in the National Register in any way compromises the independence of AIP as a private, nonpolitical, scientific organization.

We trust that this letter will help to clarify the position of AIP and to allay any misgivings that may have arisen about our involvement with the National Register.

H. WILLIAM KOCH
Director,
American Institute of Physics

Credit where credit due

Your reviewer, John Scott, criticized with considerable relish many features of "Vol. 4, Methods of Experimental Physics." The author index, for example, was "carelessly put together" with "misspellings or confusion over initials." Apparently the disease was catching, since the reviewer himself identified the wrong authors.

The section on secondary electron emission was written by me. If my section had fared less well in the review, I would be happy to forget the whole matter, but it is discouraging to have it termed "excellent" and credited to somebody else.

N. REY WHETTEN
General Electric, Schenectady, N. Y.

Foundation can't help

While it is perhaps flattering to be included with the Ford Foundation as one of the "rich private foundations" to which scientists are directed by Representative Craig Hosmer (PHYSICS TODAY, June, page 23), I feel it important to make it clear, before our doors are battered down, that Research Corporation hardly falls within