NAS Names Rubey Director Of Lunar Science Institute

The National Academy of Sciences has named geophysicist William W. Rubey of the University of California at Los Angeles director of its Lunar Science Institute. The academy still hopes, however, to turn the institute over to a university group, possibly before 1 Jan.

The institute will be located outside the gates of the Lunar Receiving Laboratory now being prepared by NASA at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston. The academy is spending a $582 000 NASA grant and extra NASA funds to convert the old West Mansion on Rice University property into a study and conference center. It is expected to be ready for use by September, well before the first sample of lunar material is brought back to Houston. Analysis of data from Orbiter and Surveyor missions will be performed as well.

Acting on the advice of its committee on NASA–university relations, headed by Guyford Stever of Carnegie-Mellon University, the academy is trying to make it possible for scientists to work at the Houston center without giving up their university affiliations to become government employees.

In a statement last spring, the academy said the institute could "be of value in developing patterns of active university coöperation with the scientific programs of the national space effort and making results of this research more accessible to the scientific community."

The academy's involvement began in May 1967 when President Frederick Seitz invited the presidents of 49 universities to discuss a NASA request for help in organizing research with lunar samples. Nearly a year later President Johnson announced plans for the institute during a visit to Houston with Seitz and James E. Webb, then NASA director. Last summer the academy tried unsuccessfully to have a consortium take it over. By the end of October time was growing short and Rubey was named director.

Rubey has been professor of geology and geophysics at UCLA since leaving the US Geological Survey after a 38-year career. He has been a member of the academy since 1945, was chairman of the National Research Council from 1951 to 1954 and was a member of the National Science Board from 1961 to 1966. During his tenure in Houston, he also will serve as adjunct professor of geology at Rice. Rubey will continue his half-time professorship at UCLA.

When the institute becomes a going concern, it is expected to have a permanent staff of 10 to 20 with another 10 to 20 scientists visiting at any one time. Managerial responsibilities will be subcontracted to Rice. The institute will have no labs of its own but will include photo-study equipment, computer consoles and a library.

—JPW

RUBEY

RESONANCES

Lee A. DuBridge will be science adviser to President Nixon. The 67-year-old president of the California Institute of Technology had planned to retire in June but will wind up his affairs in Pasadena before the inauguration 20 Jan. Both Nixon and DuBridge told a news conference in New York they hoped to reverse the trend of declining federal support for basic research. Nixon told newsmen he had not decided whether DuBridge would be given the other three jobs that in the past have gone with the science-adviser post: the chairmanships of the Office of Science and Technology, the President's Science Advisory Committee, and the Federal Council on Science and Technology. DuBridge, director of the radiation laboratory at MIT during the Second World War, was president of the American Physical Society in 1947.

Two presidential science task forces, both directed by physicists, will help DuBridge recommend new programs to Nixon. Charles H. Townes heads one on space; DuBridge said the question of what to do in space after the Apollo moon program is one of the most urgent facing the new administration. H. Guyford Stever will direct a second task force on science in general.

IBO Develops International Physics Syllabus and Exam

A high-school physics syllabus that would prepare students for universities throughout the world is under development by the International Baccalaureate Office, headquartered in Geneva. This year, three international secondary schools are experimenting with a common physics curriculum, and in Britain the first IBO trial physics exam has recently been carried out.

The physics syllabus is one of several courses that will make up the baccalaureate. Such courses are intended to prepare students at international schools for varied national university requirements. "They may also have

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application in Europe where course specialization begins very early," notes Arnold Strassenburg of AIP, who recently attended an international baccalaureate conference at Oxford. "But I don't think the courses would be feasible for US high schools where there is a broader range of student backgrounds."

The three schools are Atlantic College in Britain, the International School of Geneva and the United Nations International School in New York City. Starting in 1970, these institutions will participate in a six-year trial of the baccalaureate, and baccalaureate holders will be studied in their future university performances. Thus far, the IB has been accepted by Switzerland and Bulgaria and is under consideration by France, West Germany, Sweden and Poland. In addition, some US universities as well as Oxford and Cambridge have agreed to accept its results.

This year, the three major international schools are introducing the IB physics curriculum on an experimental basis. The physics instructor at the United Nations school, Wojciech Dindorf, told PHYSICS TODAY, "The difficulty of satisfying the diverse requirements of universities in many countries is more apparent than real."

Physics Monograph Series To Appear in Paperback

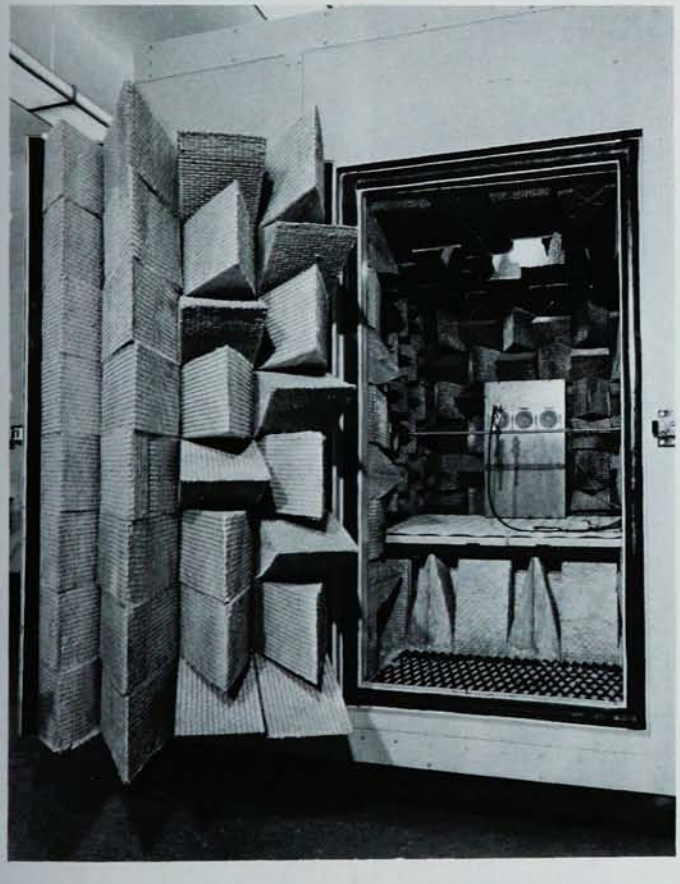
A new series of paperback monographs in physics is being introduced by W. A. Benjamin, Inc. The series, to number between 20 and 30 titles, is aimed at the junior and senior level of college physics and is designed to bring the fresh approach of recent introductory textbooks to the second half of the college physics curriculum.

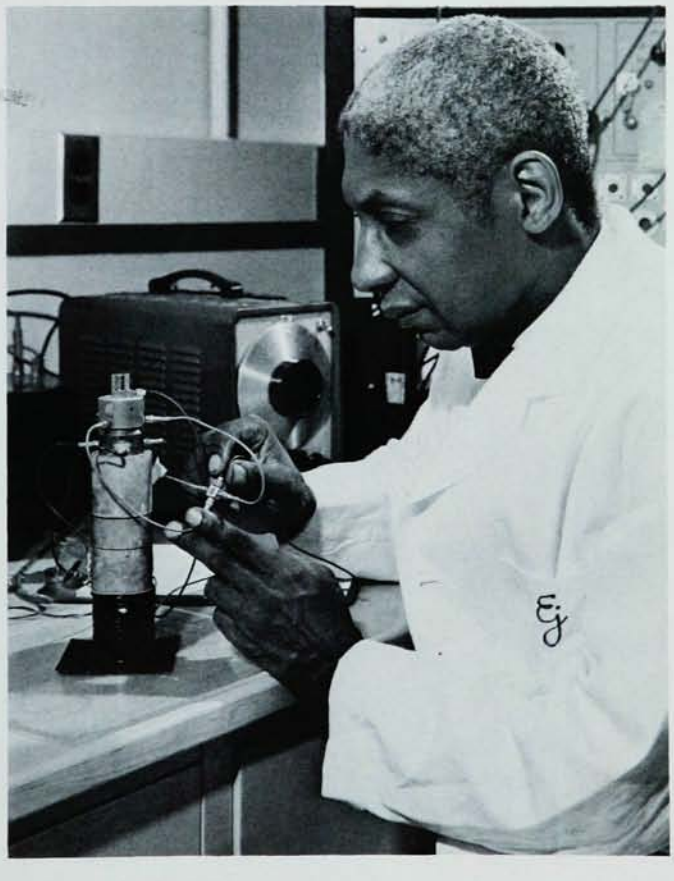
The series will start with paperbacks covering relativistic mechanics, quantum electrodynamics, linear vector spaces, kinetic theory of gases, thermodynamics, statistical mechanics, parity conservation, ultrasonics, optics and holography.

AAPT Succeeds with Resource Letters and Reprint Booklets

Since 1962 the American Association of Physics Teachers has successfully published 34 resource letters and 16 reprint booklets, with two more in preparation, as aids to teacher, student and researcher. Grants from the National Science Foundation, supplemented by AAPT funds, have supported three quarters of the commissioning, editing and publishing of resource letters. AAPT is deciding the feasibility of continuing the letters since NSF funds are almost expended. The reprint booklets, each based on a resource letter, are a self-sustaining AAPT operation. Editing and publishing of both letters and booklets are handled by the American Institute of Physics (for a listing see table).

A selected and annotated bibliogra-





SOUND LABORATORY building was completed recently at the National Bureau of Standards laboratory complex in Gaithersburg, Md. The one-story structure was designed for basic research in ultrasonic, infrasonic, physical, architectural and audio acoustics and vibration. At left is a small (1.8 meter^3) anechoic chamber for measuring loudspeaker frequency response. At right Earle Jones calibrates an accelerometer for use with a transducer-shaker system.