

taining satisfactory employment in physics.

Every two years our National Register Section sends comprehensive questionnaires to every individual registered or employed as a physicist. This information is combined with similar data for other scientific disciplines in a Register of Scientific Personnel maintained by the National Science Foundation. The data are analyzed by many different groups and reports are published regularly. Here again the evidence for widespread unemployment among physicists is negligible though it is far to say that the 1968 data has not yet been completely analyzed.

The placement service provides an additional source of information on the employment picture in physics. Through 1967 the records of requests for service and reports of results from both job-seeking physicists and prospective employers confirmed our general impression that physicists were in great demand. In 1968 the number of registrants seeking jobs increased and the number of firms using our service decreased. This phenomenon was reported in the April issue of our *Educational Newsletter*. I quote below the concluding paragraph of that article:

"Clearly more physicists are seeking fewer jobs. The reduction in the number of opportunities is, perhaps, completely accounted for by federal cutbacks in research funds. Since jobs are less plentiful, persons seeking new positions are more likely to rely on the placement service for help. Few of the present registrants are unemployed; therefore the employment picture is not really bleak at this time, but mobility, which leads to rapid advancement, will certainly be curtailed. The situation will bear watching in the near future."

This problem, of course, was not completely unexpected. Reductions in the allocation of federal funds for research had been announced. While this was, perhaps, a predictable consequence of the Vietnam war, few realized in advance the extent of the influence this would have on the physics community.

As soon as the seriousness of the situation became apparent, the AIP Committee on Physics and Society (COMPAS) initiated a survey to deter-

mine in detail the effect the cutbacks were having on academic research laboratories. A report of this survey was distributed in the spring of 1968; a followup survey conducted in October is now being analyzed. The results do indicate general pessimism in the academic community. If the predictions of department chairmen are correct, it will certainly be harder to obtain academic research positions in the immediate future than it has been in the recent past. This situation is apparently worsening rapidly; however, it is doubtful that it has contributed to widespread unemployment as yet.

The thorough study of supply of and demand for physicists suggested by Zernik is one AIP would very much like to conduct. I completely agree with Zernik's assessment of the difficulties it would impose; at this time we have neither the staff nor financial resources to do it. When and if the seriousness of the situation demands this approach, we will try to respond to the needs of the physics community.

The conclusions I would like to draw from the facts outlined above are these:

There is evidence that physics research jobs will be harder to secure this year than they were last.

The present unfortunate job-market situation is of very recent origin.

There is little hard evidence of widespread unemployment among physicists at this time.

The officers of AIP are very much aware there is an employment problem and are actively collecting relevant information and reporting this to the physics community.

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Verbatim transcription

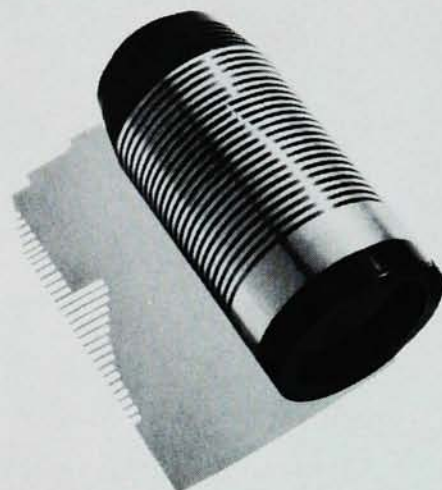
In his review of T. P. Melia's book *An Introduction to Masers and Lasers* (PHYSICS TODAY, August, page 75), Robert J. Collier notes three instances in which Melia has apparently transcribed material more or less directly from other sources. Just for the record, to add one more item to this list, it might be noted that significant portions of Melia's chapter 4 are copied verbatim (or in some instances almost verbatim) from my book *Microwave Solid State Masers* (McGraw-Hill, 1964).

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