fessor of geophysics and physics at MIT, presided over a session on tests of relativity.

"New Advances in Optics" was the topic for Friday morning. W. Lewis Hyde, provost of University Heights, New York University, headed the meeting. Brian Thompson, director of the Institute of Optics, University of Rochester, spoke on holography. Albert Clogston lead the afternoon meeting on new advances in solid-state physics. He is director of the Physical Research Laboratory at Bell Labs. Speaking on plasmas in solids was W. M. Walsh, head of the Physics of Metal and Solid-State Research Department at Bell Labs.

Chairman of the Saturday session on "High-Energy Physics—Where Is It Now?", was Robert Marshak of the University of Rochester. Also participating was Maurice Goldhaber, director of Brookhaven National Laboratory.

The seminar ended with a cryogenics meeting under the leadership of Mark Zemansky, professor emeritus of the City College of New York and executive secretary of AAPT. Bernd Matthias, of the University of California at San Diego and Bell Labs, spoke on "Unkept Promises in Superconductivity."

New Leaders Will Overhaul US Science Policy For 1970's

US science policy for the next decade is being laid down right now in a score of offices and conference rooms around Washington. A new administration with its own science adviser and assistant secretaries for science is taking up the reins; a new president is about to take over at the National Academy of Sciences, and the National Science Foundation expects to have a new director 1 July.

The time is right for decisions. Du Bridge listed as an "urgent matter" the question of what the US should do in space after the Apollo program. By investing $5000 million a year in getting to the moon, the US has acquired a technological ability that some fear will be lost if the US does not push on to the planets.

Congressional committees have focused attention on other questions. Perhaps foremost is improvement of how the federal government makes and executes science policy. The new administration will examine everything from further strengthening NSF to finding a basic formula for paying the cost of university research.

Whatever choices they make and methods they adopt, President Nixon and his science adviser, former Cal Tech president Lee A. DuBridge, want to restore real growth to federal support of science. DuBridge said in December he wants the basic research budget to grow by 10% a year for the next few years.

How will the money be spent? In December Nixon named two task forces to brief him on decisions he could expect to face in the field of science. Charles H. Townes, who directed the study on nonmilitary use of space, and H. Guyford Stever, who led a similar study of science in general, quickly assembled groups of experts; their findings were due before 1 Jan.

Neither group published their reports (even their membership was kept secret). Henry Loomis, executive director of all the task forces, told PHYSICS TODAY that the study groups were asked to identify issues and present alternative responses. Their findings were to be broken down into three groups:

- issues that might require action in the first 100 days of the new administration. Loomis called these the "Swords of Damocles." This area included positions the new President might want to take in his inaugural speech or in his early executive orders. He was to be warned of any surprises that might confront him, such as a Soviet first manned lunar landing.
- long-range decisions that could be handled in a routine fashion without any problems from Congress.
- long-range questions that involve new departures for national science policy. The post-Apollo space program falls into this category.

The man Nixon will lean on the most is DuBridge. DuBridge has said he expects to work toward pulling more and more scientists, particularly those outside the governmental sphere, into the federal decision-making process. He said he is particularly concerned over a breach between some scientists and the Defense Department, caused in part by disagreement over the war in Vietnam.

Nixon has asked DuBridge to bring periodically to the White House scientific leaders from this country and

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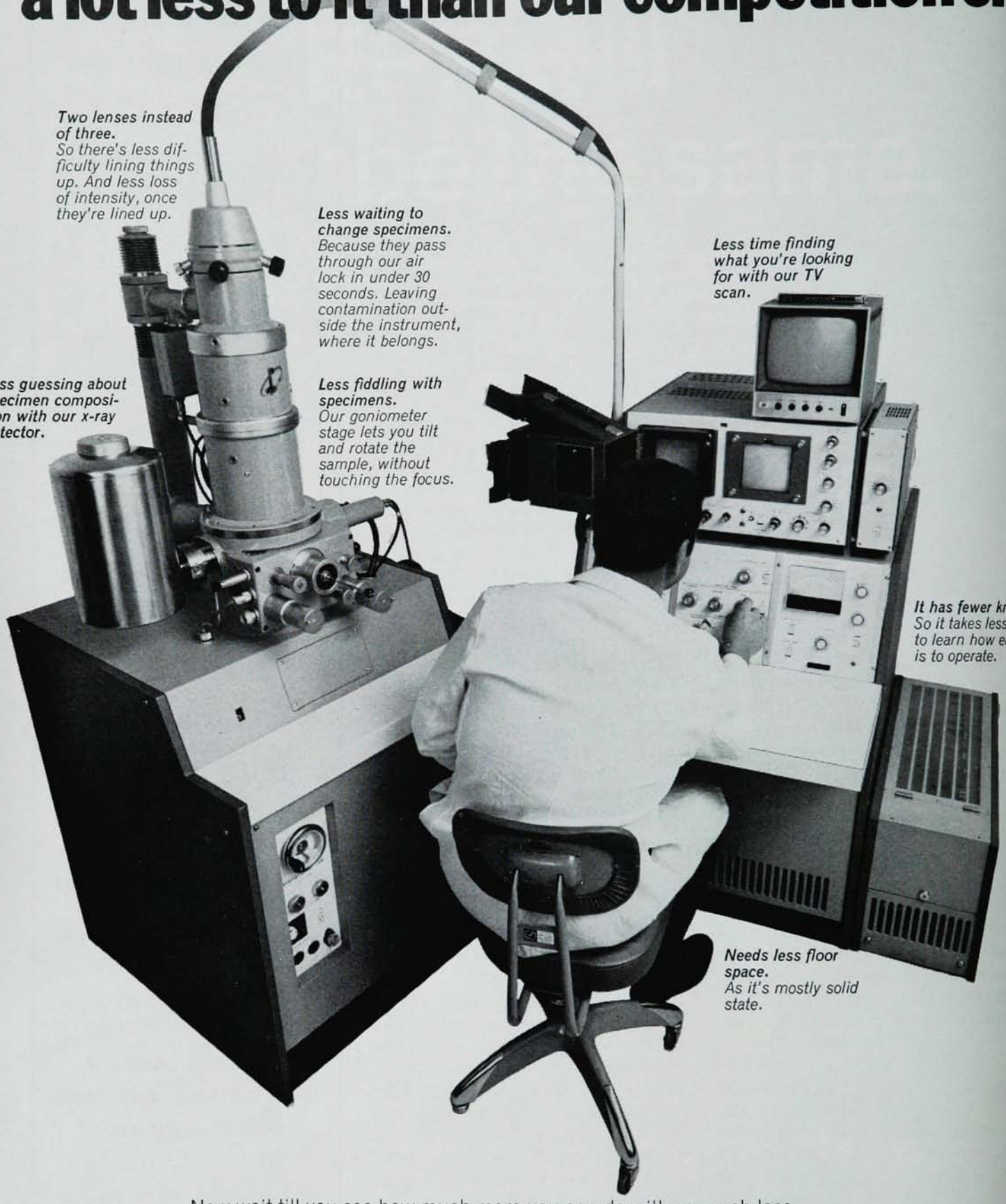

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abroad to brief the President on developments and trends.

DuBridge moved slowly in taking public positions on technically oriented issues. On the future of manned exploration of space, he noted that as spacecraft improve and the necessary instrumentation becomes more complex, it may make more sense to use men rather than instruments. The man will be superior to any machine in dealing with the unexpected once he gets there.

On the arms race with the Soviet Union, he said that it is "terribly important to find a way of getting out of the rat race of nuclear buildups and nuclear defense buildups."

On the most basic issue, more money for science, DuBridge and Nixon present a united front. They should have little trouble gathering persuasive arguments on how more money could be well spent. Whether they can sell their enthusiasm to a Congress no longer dazzled by science is another question.

US Steel, AIP Add Category To Science-Writing Awards

A second award for science writing in physics and astronomy, this one for a scientist, has been created by the US Steel Foundation and AIP. Both awards carry $1500 cash prizes.

The original award, established a year ago, is for a newspaper or magazine writer. This year's prize will be given at the Washington meeting of the American Physical Society; entries must be submitted by 15 Feb.

The new award will be given this year at the fall Corporate Associates meeting to a scientist for work geared to the nontechnical reader. Submission deadline is 1 June.

AEC, Puerto Rico To Study Nuclear-Energy Center Sites

Puerto Rican agencies and the Atomic Energy Commission are studying possible island sites for a nuclear-energy center. They are thinking in terms of a plant that would generate 0.5 to 1 million kilowatts and desalt 25 to 100 million gallons of seawater per day.

The centers would provide power and water for industry, agriculture, and residential communities of up to 100 000 (PHYSICS TODAY, December, page 62). □