

LETTERS

Difficulties of relocation

The American Physical Society Council states that the 1970 annual meeting cannot be relocated at this late date. They further state their opinion that the move would be a political action. Many argue that APS is, has been and should be apolitical. I tend to agree. On the other hand, *physicists*, as individuals should *not* be apolitical. Those who found Mayor Daley's actions at the Democratic Convention arrogant, heinous and antidemocratic have a clear and direct means of protest: It is *not* too late to cancel reservations, withdraw abstracts and refuse lecture invitations. I, for one, shall not appear at Chicago in person or in print.

THOMAS B. W. KIRK
Cambridge, Massachusetts

A REPLY FOR APS: The editor has given me an opportunity to comment on Thomas Kirk's letter, and I will do so for two reasons: (1) I agree with everything he says except his last sentence. If I agreed with that statement, the last council vote on the annual meeting would not have reaffirmed the Chicago site unanimously. And also, I would not now be the APS president. (2) The council was informed by staff members of APS and American Insti-

tute of Physics with extensive experience in convention management and many personal contacts in the hotel fraternity that the annual meeting could not be moved without changing its character rather severely. We were advised that the 40 000 square feet of exhibition space we normally require was unobtainable without a lead time of at least two years. Speaking only for myself, I can say I am embarrassed to learn, through the courtesy of Jay Orear, that the staff work was both incomplete and incorrect. But having listened to the arguments in the council, I feel confident that the knowledge that Cleveland could take care of our requirements would not have persuaded the council to move the meeting from Chicago to Cleveland. I will make no predictions concerning the council's decision at the end of April, when we will have an accurate measure of the feelings of the members of the society, as well as an alternative location available. I can only assure the members of the society that the council will discharge to the best of its ability its constitutional responsibility to represent *all* of the members of the society.

LUIS W. ALVAREZ
President, APS

Purposes of universities

Upon reading your editorial ("D. Phys. or D. Phil.?" in the January PHYSICS TODAY I was struck again—as I have been times before—by the strange assumption most North Americans seem to take as gospel truth: that only by a "liberal" university education, as distinct from a specialized one, can a person become broadly educated.

Now although I received my high-school education in Germany, I did almost all my university work in Canada and never took any nonscience course for credit at the university level. In spite of that, even my colleagues in the faculty of arts consider me well educated. I am familiar with English, American, German, French and Russian history and literature. Plato, Kant, Hegel, Leibnitz, Spinoza, Hume, Locke, Bergson, Whitehead, Russell and Wittgenstein are not strangers to me. Neither are Marx,

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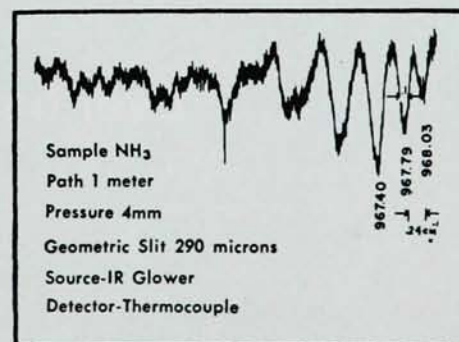
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The American Physical Society

Proposition

Should the Council of The American Physical Society reverse its decision to hold the Annual Meeting of the Society in Chicago in 1970 as now scheduled?

CHECK ONE

- ☐ I believe the Council should reverse its decision and not hold the Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1970.
- ☐ I believe the Council should not reverse its decision and should hold the 1970 Annual Meeting in Chicago as scheduled.

THIS PROPOSITION SHOULD BE VOTED UPON AND RECEIVED BY THE TELLERS PRIOR TO 9 APRIL 1969.

Important

To validate your vote, the return envelope must be