

missile system had arisen. As a consequence I was presented with a situation which I found unacceptable and I considered that the discussions were effectively terminated.

"I believe that conversations between the President's office and prospective appointees should be carried on in confidence and do not feel at this time that it would be constructive to comment further on this situation. As of now I consider the entire issue closed."

The second said:

"I am distressed at indications that the circumstances surrounding my consideration as director of NSF may react adversely on the Foundation itself. The NSF is very important, both for the future of science and for the

welfare of the United States. Because of my strong desire that the Foundation not be subject to still further difficulties, I do not believe that any further comment from me at this time will be useful."

The administration had not indicated how many other men are being considered or given any timetable for the appointment by 20 May. Leland J. Haworth's six-year term expires on 30 June.

The National Science Board made clear in its own statement, issued 21 April by Chairman Philip Handler, that it would continue to advise the White House on potential candidates solely on the basis of scientific and administrative competence. The statement read in part:

"The board deeply regrets the recent break with this established tradition and essential practice [keeping NSF sheltered from politics] when political concern was made paramount in the consideration of an eminently qualified candidate for the position of director. . . . The board will do all it can to minimize the resulting damage to internal morale and to the standing of the National Science Foundation in the community."

All 25 board members approved the statement except Haworth and Agriculture Secretary Clifford M. Hardin, who disqualified themselves as government employees, and Athelstan F. Spilhaus, who could not be reached by the committee drawing up the statement.

Activists Take ABM Fight To Congress, White House

Politically active physicists worked at translating rhetoric into action at the Washington meeting of the American Physical Society—organizing visits to congressmen and senators, collecting and delivering petitions and even picketing the White House.

Opposition to the Safeguard anti-ballistic-missile system became the rallying point. Three days of activity culminated in a march from the hotel to the White House, where about 200 physicists picketed while a five-man delegation delivered petitions to Lee A. DuBridge, the President's science adviser.

On Monday afternoon Rep. George E. Brown Jr (D-Cal.) arranged a Capitol news conference for the Union of Concerned Scientists, a group of about 200 at MIT formed during the planning of the 4 March research stoppage. Brown and Sen. Edward W. Brooke (R-Mass.) distributed to all members of Congress a UCS booklet against the missile system.

Recruits were signed up Monday night during a "briefing" conducted by the Federation of American Scientists, formed a generation ago, and the Scientists for Social and Political Action, formed last February. While a variety of speakers filled in the 300 physicists present on the latest rounds of the ABM debate and the current nose count in the Senate, Barry M. Casper of Carleton College signed up individuals for appointments with their own senators and congressmen. He reported Thursday that visits had been

made to 53 senators or their legislative aides, including the dozen or so who had not taken a public stand on the issue.

Tuesday night SSPA distributed questionnaires during the official APS general session on technical aspects of the ABM (the July PHYSICS TODAY will carry a meeting report). Nearly 3000 physicists, wives and friends jammed the main hall to hear Eugene P. Wigner and Donald Brennan speak for the missile system and Hans A. Bethe and George Rathjens speak against it. 1216 responded to the questionnaire, with 76% opposing Safeguard, 21% in favor and 5% undecided. APS was embarrassed when some news media incorrectly reported these results as an official vote of the entire society.

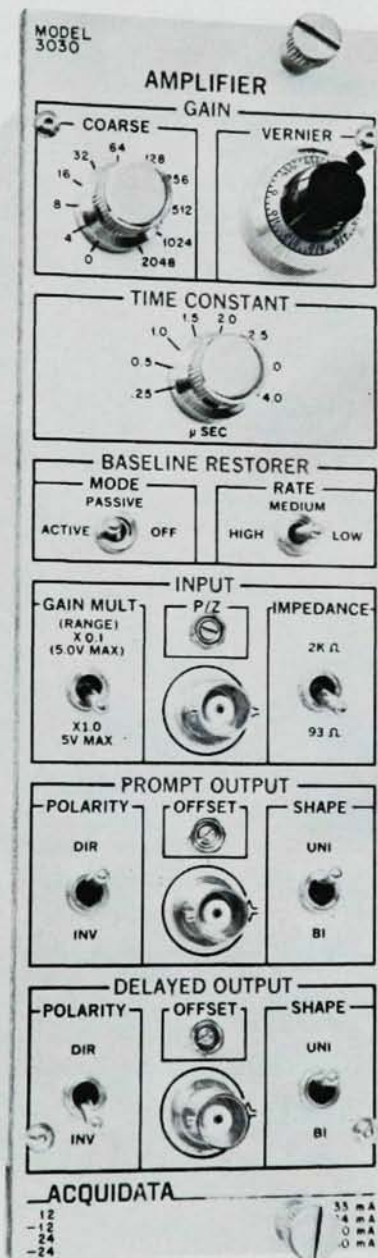


PHOTO BY WILEY

The next day 105 physicists stepped off from the Sheraton-Park at noon, marching down Connecticut Avenue to their 1:30 appointment with DuBridge. Unknown to most of them, DuBridge was then at the hotel, having lunch with APS President Luis W. Alvarez and other officials. He left the lunch in time to be in his office when the marchers arrived. Another 100 came by bus and cab.

Thomas Kirk of Harvard, who with David Nygren of Columbia organized the march, told newsmen after the meeting that DuBridge had received them very cordially and had promised to bring their petitions to the President's attention at the earliest opportunity. DuBridge said the strategic arms talks scheduled with the Soviet Union would go ahead as scheduled

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and that the administration had no indication the Safeguard decision would hurt the talks. He asked for the results of the questionnaire and the number of marchers outside.

Later that afternoon a second delegation, this one of FAS officials, called on DuBridge to argue against the ABM and to resubmit a petition first circulated two years ago calling for an end to the use of chemical weapons in Vietnam and a declaration that the US will not use chemical and biological weapons first.

College Physics Commission Reports Results in 1966-68

Achievements in introductory and major courses, training of physics teachers, courses for the nonscientist and physics for the two-year college highlight the 1966-68 Report of the Commission on College Physics (Am. J. Phys. 36, 11, 1969).

Many of the commission's activities had visible effects in 1966-68. Introductory courses have been extended in many schools and modern topics introduced. A 1968 summer workshop tried to improve laboratory work for the physics major. Two ideas emerged: the divergent laboratory, for students with a variety of goals, and the highly instrumented laboratory. Articles on each appear in the report.

Another workshop, in 1967, attempted to enhance the curriculum of future high-school teachers and to recruit more students. Its report resulted in new programs at the Univer-

In a separate drive Wednesday, Charles Schwartz and other SSPA organizers presented a group of congressmen with a petition bearing 729 signatures calling for open congressional hearings on the direction of all military research and development programs.

What was accomplished? At a windup news conference Thursday, the activists said they were satisfied they had done what they could to bring their position to the attention of the administration, the Congress, the public and their fellow physicists.

-JPW

sity of California at Berkeley, the State University of New York at Stony Brook and the University of Massachusetts. CCP also supported the Physical Science for the Nonscience Student project at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, which in 1967-68 was given at 40 colleges.

For two-year colleges, a CCP panel in June of 1968 developed resource packets as teacher aids for difficult topics. Also as an aid, CCP sponsored the University of Washington's film *Symmetry*, which so far has received six awards. In 1968 the commission explored the use of computers in physics courses. A year earlier a consultant service was created to evaluate and revise physics departments.

Active since 1960, the autonomous commission is assisted by the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Institute of Physics; it is sponsored by the National Science

IN BRIEF

A list of foreign scientists available for exchange in 1969-70 under the Fulbright-Hays Act may be obtained from the Committee on International Exchange of Persons, 2101 Constitution Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. The Italian Physical Society has begun quarterly publication of a review journal, *La Rivista del Nuovo Cimento*. The former *Supplemento al Nuovo Cimento* will be discontinued. For details write Italian Physical Society, Istituto di Fisica, Università di Bologna, via Irnerio 46.

The Instrument Society of America has prepared a 28-page catalog of current instrumentation publications. Free copies are available from the

ISA Publications Department, 530 William Penn Place, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219.

The Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission has ordered a \$1.4-million research and training reactor from Fairey Engineering Ltd of Great Britain.

Catalogs of cores obtained during the Deep Sea Drilling Project now under way will begin to become available from the National Science Foundation about 1 July.

Formation of a computational physics group has been approved by The Institute of Physics and The Physical Society in Great Britain. K. V. Roberts is chairman of the provisional group committee.

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