

break with the absolute notion of the geocentric model of the universe, which led to the Copernican revolution. In the latter development, the spatial positions of matter in the universe became relativized. In the revolution of relativity theory, space-time became relativized, with an underlying geometry that was taken to be a representation of the matter distribution of the universe.

MENDEL SACHS

State University of New York, Buffalo

Confidence in the council

As a concerned member of the American Institute of Physics I wish to place a vote of confidence in the American Physical Society Council. Contrary to Jay Orear (PHYSICS TODAY, May, page 9) I feel that the council does represent me as a member of the majority who voted against the ill-conceived effort to move the forthcoming annual meeting place of APS from Chicago.

I find the views expressed by those who are urging this move to be disturbingly subjective. Do Orear and "his colleagues" think that such a council is a kind of electoral college with each member an automaton responding directly to a certain number of constituents? Is it not, rather, a group that the voting majority entrusted to run the affairs of the society as best they can within the rules of the society?

And if they are not doing so to our satisfaction, can we not always "vote the rascals out"? Also does Orear think that the vote of the January business meeting should take precedence over the membership-wide poll taken by the council? If so, where is the representation of the many like me who did respond to the poll but who could not come to the meeting?

Physicists should remind themselves that they are endowed by their professional abilities with absolutely no special competence in sociology or politics. How much more, then, must APS as a group avoid the arrogance of trading on public status and professional reputation of its group membership in areas far removed from the physical sciences!

How can the members from Cornell presume to teach the mayor of Chicago about how to handle public violence? Did Cornell do any better? How can APS, with membership

from Cornell, Columbia, Howard, Berkeley and many other institutions of "higher" learning presume to do so? What proven competence do we have? Without such competence our "lesson" degenerates to presumptuous effrontery. Perhaps, even, the lesson should come from the other side, Mr Orear. After all, no one was able to bring guns or cleavers to the Democratic Convention floor.

WILLIAM R. DRAKE
Alexandria, Virginia

Anti-Chicago pledge

With respect to the January 1970 annual meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Physical Society in Chicago, some of us felt that irrespective of the official policy of APS many physicists would welcome the opportunity to state that they personally will not attend that meeting. Pledges to this effect have now been signed by 450 physicists at colleges, industrial and government laboratories all over the United States. Among the signers are: Joseph C. Callaway, Bellur S. Chandrasekhar, Leslie L. Foldy, Carl A. Levinson, Henry P. Primakoff, Fritz R. Rohrlich, Silvan S. Schweber and Malcolm H. Skolnick.

The pledge states:

"Along with our fellow countrymen in every occupation and profession, we physicists were horrified to witness the police action in the city of Chicago during the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

"Previous to the Democratic Convention, the American Physical Society arranged to hold its 1970 annual meeting in that city. We fear that our attendance at a meeting in Chicago might be interpreted as indicating either approval or indifference to the events that occurred there.

"As witness to our dismay at the behavior of the Chicago police during the Democratic Convention, we physicists individually sign this statement that we will not attend the 1970 annual meeting of the American Physical Society in Chicago."

Our pledge was circulated among only a limited number of people. There must be many more who would like to state their affirmation. We so-



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licit their support. Please write to one of us if you wish to state with us that you will not attend the Chicago meeting.

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Bates, not Lecomte

With reference to the photograph of the 1966 General Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (PHYSICS TODAY, May, page 55), I am sure that the gentleman identified as J. Lecomte would prefer to be called Leslie F. Bates.

RALPH P. HUDSON

National Bureau of Standards

BATES SAYS: I am indeed the person wrongly described. I may add that it gave me much pleasure to appear in that photograph because the president, Louis Néel and I were elected to the newly formed Magnetism Commission in 1957, and I was appearing for the last time as secretary of that commission.

LESLIE F. BATES

University of Nottingham, Emeritus

LECOMTE SAYS: The person referred to as "J. Lecomte" is very likely L. F. Bates as I identify myself on the last-but-one row approximately above Louis Néel.

J. LECOMTE

Faculté des Sciences de Paris

A CORRECTION: In my August review of P. K. Kabir's book *The CP Puzzle: Strange Decays of the Neutral Kaon*, sentence 5 of paragraph 5 should have ended with the word "statement." Then a new sentence should begin: "Again, 'A neutral 2π state. . .'" The following sentence should have read as follows: "An I -odd state of two neutral pions does not exist (because of Bose statistics), and it is confusing for the author to imply that it must satisfy this condition."

ROBERT G. SACHS

University of Chicago □

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