atively large numbers of subscribers. The method has also resulted in a quality publication program that has attracted about 87% of the primary physics research articles in the US.

European physics is published by a combination of society and commercial publishers that derive their income to cover expenses without the benefit of the page-charge plan and with advertising income, high subscription prices, and in some instances, subsidies (such as rent subsidies or direct governmental grants). The result has been a generally much smaller, more fragmented publication activity in Europe having many fewer subscribers.

The financial crisis at AIP during 1968 and 1969 (PHYSICS TODAY editorial "Publication Charges and Financial Solvency," December 1969) forces us to reexamine the collection of publishing income and its utilization. The reexamination demonstrated that the publication of European physics was being partially subsidized with US money because many European articles were being published in US journals, and because European authors' institutions appeared generally unwilling to support financially the very successful method of page charges utilized by the US physics community.

To protect the best interests of the members of the member societies of the American Institute of Physics, we have taken a deliberate position to strengthen the page-charge plan in the US and to allow Europeans to benefit from these journals according to the financial arrangements that appear most appropriate for European journals. The result is the increase by 50% of foreign subscription prices of AIP journals. The increased foreign-subscription income just compensates for the loss of income from page charges of articles written by foreign authors.

To date, the increased foreign prices have not resulted in any change in the pattern of foreign subscriptions. Therefore, we feel that we have effected a successful compromise that permits US physicists to publish under arrangements consistent with their finances and experiences, and similarly for foreign physicists.

Any foreign physicist who publishes in AIP journals can still benefit from the wide circulation of his research results in our journals. As far as we can tell to date, many foreign physicists are continuing to publish in our journals. We intend to make such publication possible without adversely affecting the financial investments of our members in AIP or our member societies. Therefore, as you can see, we believe we are operating in the best interests of our members.

H. WILLIAM KOCH
Director,
American Institute of Physics

Suitable jobs for physicists

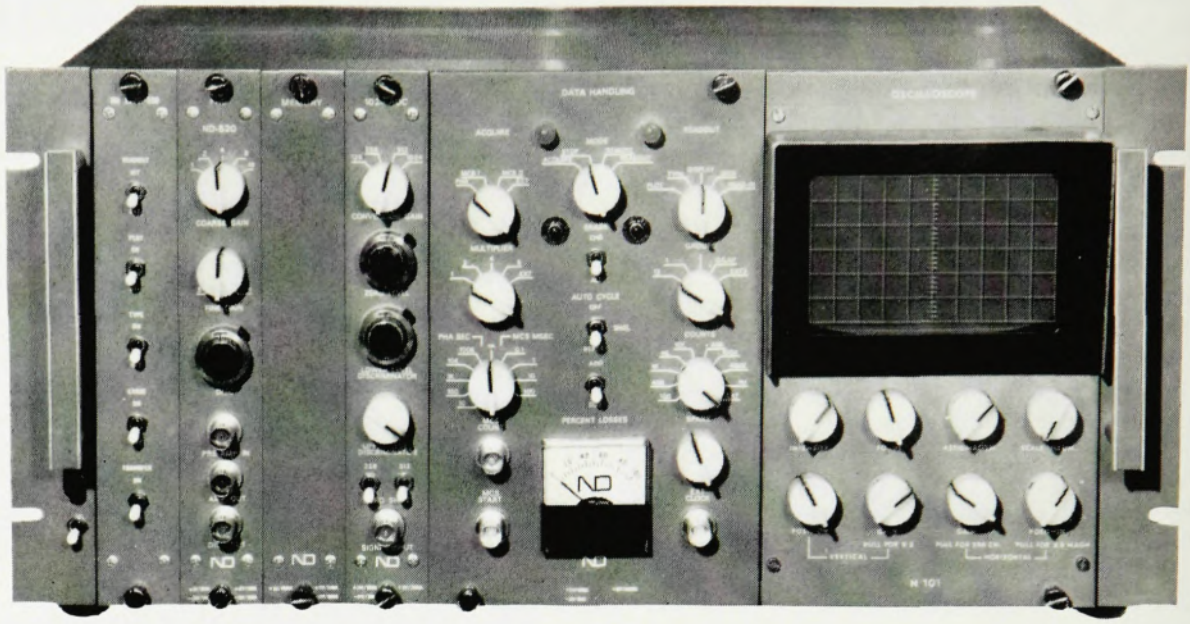
In the past few years I have passively followed the "Schwartz amendment" controversy, the selective-service changes, and the current physics-employment debate as covered by PHYSICS TODAY. Your November 1969 issue contains two letters that I, from my present vantage point, consider repulsive.

Both Robert Levine and William Greenberg advocate that PHYSICS TODAY follow the lead of a vast number of organizations that devote their time and efforts to lobbying for the aggrandizement of the profession or organization they represent. Furthermore, both gentlemen feel that society *must* provide employment *in* physics for educated physicists. As a graduate student, Greenberg says that he does not want a handout, just a productive job in physics.

As an *ex*-graduate student (a result of the "Hershey effect") I feel very little sympathy for Greenberg. However, I heartily agree with him that it is irresponsible of the American Institute of Physics to encourage students to study physics and then to disown them. PHYSICS TODAY, AIP, and the physics profession in general should make potential physics students aware of the present and future job outlook.

It is, however, incongruous to me how any individual, physicist or not, should feel that society owes him a living or owes him precisely the type of job he wants. American society today is pervaded by unnatural economic and social realities perpetuated in part by selfish interest groups striving to increase their share of the pie. I would hope that my chosen profession, physics, could maintain more integrity than the general rabble.

When 300 000 Americans have become casualties in the longest, most distasteful war in our history, and



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when the US is fighting not to be drawn down into the gutter while balancing military preparations with national conscience, opinions such as those expressed by Levine and Greenberg do not endear physicists to society. I would suggest that the responsibility referred to by Greenberg lies with every member of the field. If physics in the US can exist without the necessity of designing new weapons of destruction, without professional prostitution, and without the support of "make-work" contracts, then perhaps America is not as sick as some of her symptoms indicate.

In conclusion, may I remind Greenberg that Albert Einstein was a patent clerk when some of his most profound work was performed. One does not necessarily have to have a "productive job" to be productive.

LT. CHARLES D. DECKER
Edgewood Arsenal

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Recently, there have been a rash of editorials and letters to the editor about the current poor situation in the job market for physicists. This is an important matter and certainly worthy

of penetrating discussion and appropriate action, but I do not care to discuss these issues further here. I would simply like to comment on a common opinion that "physicists are trained to attain very highly specialized skills and knowledge that is only applicable to a very narrow range of tasks." To a limited extent this may be true; but are not "thinking" and "analysis" the essence of physics? I always thought so! Shouldn't a physicist be able to identify and isolate problems and then solve them with penetrating thought and decisive action? Isn't the ability to think very generally applicable to an enormous range of problems? Isn't analytical ability very valuable in many situations? I always thought that "thinking" and "analysis" were the essence of physics and that a good physicist could handle an enormous array of tasks.

C. F. GALLO
Penfield, N.Y.

Insurance question

After several glowing pronouncements, I have just received the brochure describing the new life-insurance plan that has been given the seal of approval by the American Physical Society for its members. Out of interest I have compared this with the policy that I bought from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, because most members of the APS could join the IEEE if they so desired. The APS premiums for $50 000 insurance in the 35–39 age group is $180.00; that for the IEEE is $193.54 but the current rebate is at 20%, so that the net premium is only $154.84. As far as I can see the conditions of insurance are identical. I hope that the APS has some explanation for this anomaly, which I feel is of interest to the general membership.

J. R. WATERS
Towson, Md.

REPLY FOR APS: As was reported to the Society's members on page 1274 of the *Bulletin* (Index issue), the Trustees of The American Physical Society Group Life Insurance Trust addressed the matter of dividends, stating that all insurance is experience rated. All plans accumulate reserves, from which dividends are paid, as the result of experience after the plan has been in existence for a period of time. However, the Trustees warned that no plan should be entertained purely from the standpoint of dividends, because these are never guaranteed.

The IEEE plan is an excellent one, and a proposal very similar to it was among the finalists when plans were considered by the Council of the Society. The IEEE plan has been in existence for a number of years and has achieved a creditable dividend record from its built-in reserve structure. The APS plan finally accepted, being a new plan, has not yet generated re-