

Theorist Keith Brueckner (University of California at La Jolla) had filed nine patent applications in connection with the work, which was done at the KMS Technology Center while he was technical director (*physics today*, August 1970, page 47). AEC said, in a prepared statement, that because Brueckner had been closely associated with classified work in AEC weapons laboratories and had signed the usual AEC patent agreements in connection with the work, AEC would contest any Patent Office decision to issue patents on some or all of the claims made in his applications.

Keeve M. Siegel, chairman of KMS Industries, commenting on the AEC statement, said that arrangements for the substantial amounts of money needed for the program in the next few years have not been completed yet. The AEC statement also pointed out that "If, in the future, the AEC determined that the work was leading to the fabrication of a nuclear explosive device or a component of an explosive, the KMS program would be ended or redirected toward peaceful applications at the discretion of the Commission."

Physicists urged to respond promptly to NSF job survey

About 36 000 physicists are included in a National Science Foundation survey looking into the current science employment situation. Their names are drawn from among the 313 000 scientists who responded to the 1970 National Register questionnaire. Postcards were mailed in March to obtain data for this study, suggested to NSF by the Office of Science and Technology.

AIP director H. William Koch commented: "The survey is an important attempt to assess the unemployment picture in the sciences. Clearly the greater the response to the survey, the more useful will be the results. Physicists are urged to respond accurately and promptly."

Loans for scientists

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cation Bill is an updated version of the one first introduced by Kennedy last August. The conversion bill would authorize expenditure of \$500 million over a three-year period. The similar House version would authorize \$450 million. The goal of the bill is to convert scientists from defense- and space-related activities to those that will help solve urgent social problems, including crime, pollution, energy sources and natural resources, urban problems, housing, transportation, education and health care.

In the Kennedy version \$449 million would be administered by NSF, and \$225 million of this would go directly into conversion fellowships to individual scientists, engineers and technicians (and would include allowances for family support and relocation expenses). Another \$63 million would go towards establishing "community conversion corporations" in localities that are severely affected by defense and space cutbacks. An additional \$45 million would go to state and local governments to establish conversion planning and support programs at state,

local or regional levels. Besides the NSF programs, the Small Business Administration would get \$45 million for grants to small businesses to assist them in converting from defense efforts to other endeavors.

Giaimo, in introducing the House version, noted that unemployment among scientists and engineers is closely related to unemployment on the production line. He said that in converting them to solving the nation's domestic problems, the new technology they develop will create new jobs at all economic levels.

—GBL

the physics community

New committee formed to study materials science

A Committee on the Survey of Materials Science and Engineering (COSMAT) has been formed under the auspices of the Committee on Science and Public Policy of the National Academy of Sciences. The purpose of the new committee is to examine the nature and scope of the field of materials science in an effort to learn how science and engineering are linked in the development of new materials. COSMAT will investigate the translation of basic science into materials application as well as the interactions of materials science with other fields of science and technology, new trends in materials science and research requirements in the field. Much of the work will be interdisciplinary, as materials researchers include specialists in the biosciences, chemistry, engineering, metallurgy, physics and other areas.

The chairman of COSMAT is Morris Cohen, who is Ford Professor of Material Science and Engineering at MIT, and the vice-chairman is William O. Baker, vice-president for research at Bell Telephone Laboratories.

Committee is examining amorphous-materials studies

A new committee has been formed to give some shape to the study of amorphous materials—in particular, to develop a research program that will determine significant characteristics common to these materials and look for correlations between these characteristics and the behavior of the materials. This *ad hoc* "Committee to Study the Fundamentals of Amorphous Materials" was formed by the National Research Council's national materials advisory board at the request of the

Office of Naval Research. The chairman is Henry Ehrenreich of Harvard; the committee members are David Turnbull of Harvard, Bertrand Halperin of Bell Telephone Laboratories, Rolf Landauer of IBM, Hans Frederikse of the National Bureau of Standards, Evan Felty of Xerox and John Tauc of Brown University.

Third competition announced for physics teaching films

Another competition for the best short 8-mm or "super 8" films made for physics education is being arranged by AAPT. This, the third such competition, will be conducted by AAPT's Committee on Visual Aids in conjunction with the January 1972 joint APS-AAPT meeting. Prize money totals \$700.

Entries from students or teachers who have made educational films (not in commercial production or distribution) must be submitted before the 1 December 1971 deadline.

Kenneth Weaver wins science-writing award

The award winner of the AIP-US Steel Foundation Science Writing Award to a journalist is Kenneth F. Weaver, an Assistant Editor of the *National Geographic Magazine*, for "Voyage to the Planets," which was published in the August 1970 issue of the magazine. The award, which was to be presented to Weaver during the Spring meeting of the Washington DC section of the National Association of Science Writers, consists of a \$1500 prize, a certificate to the author and to the publication and a trophy. Two AIP-US Steel Foundation Science Writing Awards are presented annually, to a journalist and to a scientist. □