

the physics community

APS refuses to publish abstracts of Forum session

Amid charges of censorship, the American Physical Society refused to publish the abstracts for a session organized by the Forum on Physics and Society for the Washington meeting in April. The session, organized by Jay Orear (Cornell), was called "Physicists and Public Affairs—Some Recent Case Histories." Speakers were Raphael Littauer (Cornell) on the "Cornell Air War Study," Leonard S. Rodberg (Institute for Policy Studies) on "Some Lessons of the Pentagon Papers: Bureaucratic War," William C. Davidon (Haverford College) on "Significance of the Harrisburg Trial for Scientific Workers" and Pierre Noyes (SLAC) on "Legal Attacks on the Vietnam War."

When the abstracts for the four talks were received by APS executive secretary William W. Havens Jr, he consulted legal counsel and was advised the abstracts were not illegal to print. (One of the abstracts, by Davidon, discussed "inactivating equipment intended for killing or harming people.") Havens then wrote to the executive committee of the Forum, saying he recommended that the talks be given but the abstracts not be published and asked for the committee's opinion. Forum chairman Earl Callen (American University) said that the committee voted 8 to 2 in favor of publication. Callen himself says that although he "personally wasn't very keen on some of the abstracts, I felt that they came within the purview of the Forum," that "this would be a terrible precedent, would make a lot of trouble, and we were opposed to censorship."

Havens took the recommendation to the executive committee of the APS council, which voted unanimously to reject publication of the abstracts.

At the council meeting held the Sunday before the Washington meeting began, the Forum proposed new standards for abstract publication. As eventually adopted by the council, Havens is free to reject any abstract if it is libellous, obscene or outside the scope of the activities of APS. The author then has three days to appeal to the executive committee of APS, whose decision is final. Havens points out that this procedure is basically the same as the one APS adopted in 1968. In 1970, for example, APS printed an abstract submitted by Charles Schwartz (Berkeley), which contained a peace symbol. A reference to Air Force support for Schwartz's peace research was, however, deleted.

Despite the lack of publication of the abstracts, a two-page flyer was widely

distributed at the meeting. It said, "The following abstracts were refused publication in the *Bulletin* for the meeting by an arbitrary action of the Executive Committee of the American Physical Society, in violation of precedent and the by-laws." The flyer contained all four abstracts. At the disputed session itself, the papers were quietly presented. And a press conference by the participants was given in the press room run by AIP for the APS.

Callen feels that in the future APS will take a much broader view of what the scope of APS is, and he believes there will not be a problem with censorship in the future.

In another session sponsored by the Forum, Robert March (University of Wisconsin) spoke in favor of his amendment to the APS constitution and Callen spoke against it. Later this year PHYSICS TODAY will publish a collection of letters on the amendment, which is scheduled for a vote of the membership in December.

Total paid registration for the meeting was 2478; last year the figure was 2360.

The placement service handled 292 applicants; 20 employers had 98 job openings. At last year's Washington meeting the service had 290 applicants, 16 employers and 53 job openings. —GBL

Papers not honoring page charges delayed

Papers for which page charges are not being honored will experience publication delays of up to a year or more in some of the AIP-published journals. Delays are 14 months in the *Journal of Mathematical Physics*, 13 months in *The Journal of Chemical Physics*, 11 months in the *Journal of Applied Physics*, 7 months in the *Journal of the Optical Society of America*, 6 months in *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, and 4 months in *The Physics of Fluids*.

The Executive Committee of the AIP Governing Board has set the policy that limits the number of pages published in AIP journals without honoring of page charges to about 20% of the total pages budgeted for the year. When the number of accepted papers in this category exceeds the 20% maximum, their publication is delayed. These delayed papers are published later, in the order of their originally scheduled dates, as rapidly as the quota permits. The page charge policy for society journals such as the journals of the Optical Society and the Acoustical Society are set by the

individual societies and are similar to AIP's.

Despite the publication delays, the physics community will still be notified of a paper's acceptance. A. W. K. Metzner, head of AIP's publication division, points out that once a paper is accepted for publication its abstract will be published without delay under the appropriate subject heading in *Current Physics Advance Abstracts*. The only requirement is that the author submit the CPAA abstract form. There is no charge for inclusion in CPAA.

Acoustical Society names new officers

The Acoustical Society of America has announced its new officers for 1972. Newly elected are Edgar A. G. Shaw, of the National Research Council of Canada, president-elect and Ira Dyer, of MIT, vice-president-elect.

Also elected were executive councilmen David M. Green of the University of California at San Diego and John C. Snowdon of Pennsylvania State University. Continuing officers are Karl D. Kryter, of Stanford Research Institute, president and Robert S. Gales of



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the Naval Undersea Research and Development Center at San Diego, vice-president.

Shaw received his PhD from the University of London in 1950. He is presently in the division of applied physics at the National Research Council of Canada in Ottawa. His research interests include the measurement of hearing, physiological noise, wave properties of acoustic forms and urban noise.

Dyer is head of the department of ocean engineering at MIT, where he received his PhD. He has done work on sonar engineering and the propagation of sound in the ocean. □