

Annual meeting offers special sessions

Two special half-day sessions will be offered during the joint APS-AAPT annual meeting in Chicago (4-7 February). A session on the problems of women physicists employed in academic positions will be held on Monday afternoon, 4 February, and another session entitled "Science and Society" will take place on Wednesday afternoon, 6 February.

Bernice Sandler, of the Association of American Colleges and director of the Project on the Status and Education of Women, will be the featured speaker at the Monday session, "Women in Academe: It Hurts to be a Woman in Labor." Sandler has been active in women's rights for a number of years. Prior to her current appointment, she was deputy director of the Women's Action Program at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, where she helped to assess the impact of various HEW programs on women. She has also worked as an education specialist for the US House of Representatives Subcommittee on Education. In that capacity she was the first person to be appointed to the staff of a congressional committee in order to work on women's rights.

Science and Society. As a part of their effort to advance the public's awareness of science in general and physics in particular the AAPT Committee on Science and the General Public and the APS Forum on Physics and Society are offering the Wednesday



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day afternoon session. People who have successfully used the communications media and various forms of group interaction to interest nonscientists in matters of concern to the scientific community will be invited to give papers explaining their success.

The chairman of the AAPT committee sponsoring the conference is Mary L. Shoaf, who along with Sidney Millman, represents APS on the committee (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, August, page 65). By reason of her office, Shoaf will also serve on the AAPT Council on Physics in Education.

of physicists will take part. Letters of invitation have already been mailed to these institutions.

After an initial screening of applicants is completed at the APS offices, participating universities will receive a short list of suitable visitors to choose from. Care will be taken to ensure that the individuals chosen can speak effectively, not only about their own work, but about the more general aspects of industrial employment.

The effectiveness of the program will be continuously monitored and, if its expansion is warranted, a proposal will be presented to the Council and additional funding solicited. The program

is administered by Sidney Millman of the American Physical Society.

Opportunities for physics to help energy research

"Physics Opportunities in Energy Problems," a special series of sessions designed to point up aspects of the energy problem that physicists might attack as a part of their existing research programs, has been arranged for the Topical Conference on Energy to be held at the annual meeting in February. Milan Fiske of General Electric is chairman of the program committee.

Papers have been invited on the following topics:

► **The Energy Problem in Perspective:** The Fuel Situation, Energy Conservation, Research Frontiers in Electric Power, Toward a National Energy Policy, US Energy Policy

► **Resource Development:** Exploration and Production of Petroleum, Coal Liquefaction, Fluid-Bed Physics, Catalysis

► **Mobile Powerplants:** The Internal Combustion Engine System, Combustion Modeling, High Temperature Materials for Automotive Vehicles, Energy Requirements for High Speed Ground Transport Systems

► **Energy Transmission and Storage:** Electric Power Transmission, Dielectric Breakdown, Fuel Cells and Batteries, Hydrogen

► **Power Generation (Fission):** Breeders, Radiation Damage in Reactors, Radioactive Waste Disposal, Reactor Safety

► **Power Generation (Fusion):** Laser-induced Fusion, Electron-Beam Fusion, Magnetic Containment

► **Power Generation (other methods):** MHD, Solar Power, Geothermal Power, Power from Ocean Gradients.

APS sets up industrial and academic exchanges

In order to increase the interaction between industrial and academic physicists the APS Committee on Education has set up a Visiting Scientists Program that provides for short visits by industrial R&D physicists to university physics departments. During his stay at the university, the visiting physicist will give a lecture on his work and meet informally with students.

Because this is a pilot program, only those physics departments graduating the majority of US doctorates and the industries making the most active use

in brief

The APS Congressional Fellows, Benjamin S. Cooper and N. Richard Werthamer, recently completed their orientation in Washington prior to taking up their full-time duties. (See the Editorial, page 92.) □