

letters

Committee on Women when they were collecting data for their Roster of Women in Physics (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, July 1972, page 61) we did not give the Committee access to data about individual women, nor their names and addresses; rather we sent the questionnaires ourselves with a covering letter so that those women who wished to be listed in the roster or to give data could do so by returning the questionnaires themselves to the Committee. Perhaps because of this kind of extreme care, the AIP in its many years of dealing with surveys has never had any problems with reference to misuse of information on the questionnaires.

Let me add that the APS-AIP Register of Physicists and Associated Scientists is under the direct supervision of Beverly F. Porter, a trained sociologist and Deputy Director of the Manpower Division. Porter developed the questionnaire in association with R. W. Sears, APS Manpower Consultant. The questionnaire was pretested in several universities, industrial and government laboratories and revised appropriately to handle uncertainties and other critical aspects. The race and ethnic question was reviewed by Warren Henry, Chairman of the APS Committee on Minorities in Physics. The question was also reviewed by AIP's legal counsel. Porter and Sears have the responsibility for maintaining confidentiality of this information.

I realize that no matter how well intentioned, well conceived and well executed have been our actions, there is always the possibility of mistakes or of breach of the safeguards. Accordingly, some may not be inclined to accept the validity of our decision to include the racial and ethnic question. I believe, however, that AIP has acted responsibly and in the best interest of its member societies as well as of the larger national interests. I urge the members of our various societies who agree, to complete and return the questionnaire after completing Question 32, and I urge those who do not agree to return it without completing the question.

H. WILLIAM KOCH
Director

American Institute of Physics

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