

Panofsky outlines APS advisory role

The role of the American Physical Society in the government's scientific advisory mechanism was brought to the attention of the Council at its February meeting in Chicago.

Through his membership on the Council of Scientific Society Presidents, the president of the APS at times can offer suggestions to the executive branch of the government, but up to now there has been no provision for advising the legislative branch. At the Council meeting APS president W. K. H. Panofsky (Stanford Linear Accelerator Center) presented an outline of the position of the Society in regard to its potential role as a scientific advisor to the legislative branch. His statement was subsequently moved as a resolution and adopted by the Council. It reads as follows:

"I believe that the Society should be a responsible body, making its special resources available to the Congress whenever possible. I suggest to the Council the following procedures:

"1. The APS will publicize its willingness to comment on or provide testimony with respect to those pieces of legislation where the character of the APS as a professional society of physicists merits that special weight be given to such comments or testimony.

"2. Upon receipt of a request to comment or testify on pending legislation, the executive secretary will notify members of Council, chairmen of Divisions and the Forum, and the chairman of the Members Advisory Committee. He will also list such requests in the *Bulletin*.

"3. The president of the APS will examine the legislative background of the measure in question, using the resources of the office of executive secretary, his assistant, or other available information. All correspondence regarding the legislation from the membership shall be forwarded to the president.

"4. The president will draft his comments or testimony so as to meet the time table required. When the time table permits, he will circulate his comments or testimony to members of the Executive Committee for endorsement or suggestions for change, submit his comments or testimony to the members of the Executive Committee at a scheduled meeting for discussion



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and endorsement, and submit his comment or testimony to members of the Council at a scheduled meeting for discussion and endorsement.

"The comment or testimony finally delivered by the president or his designate shall clearly state the level of endorsement received within the Society.

"5. Any comment or testimony delivered by the president shall be a public document. It shall be available to the membership through the *Congressional Record*. The executive secretary may also publicize the report by publishing either an abstract or the full text of the report in the *APS Bulletin*, citing the circumstances of its delivery to the government. The text of the report will also be submitted to *PHYSICS TODAY* for publication."

Plan to speed preparation of Energy Study proposals

To expedite the organization and implementation of the Summer Energy Study proposals, the APS Council has empowered its Executive Committee to review the proposals as they are prepared, to vote by recorded ballot on whether or not particular proposals shall be carried out, and to implement the proposals selected.

The proposals will deal with three different areas where physics might help ease the current energy situation: the application of physics to energy technology, technical aspects of energy

conservation and technical aspects of nuclear safety (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, November, page 69).

If the APS is to make an effective and timely contribution, the Council felt, the urgency of the energy situation requires that the Society be able to act without waiting for the approval of the full Council, which meets roughly every quarter.

The Council also directed APS president W. K. H. Panofsky (Stanford Linear Accelerator Center) to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to monitor each energy study. Until the final reports of the summer-study groups are issued, each committee is to report regularly to the Council.

In the discussion attendant to the motion, members of the Council made it clear that they considered it essential that the control of the content and manner of release of the reports of the summer studies remain the exclusive responsibility of the Society. In order to avoid the possible charge that the reports are captive documents, multi-agency funding is considered most desirable.

As soon as they are funded, the proposals will be publicized in the *APS Bulletin* and in *PHYSICS TODAY* and other appropriate journals. Interested parties wishing to be considered for appointment to the study working groups may then apply to the directors of the projects.

Washington representative contemplated by Society

A Washington representative for the American Physical Society may be in the offing. The APS Council has charged an Ad Hoc Committee with responsibility for conducting a study of the Washington representatives of other major professional organizations, reviewing the record of the experience of the Washington office of the American Institute of Physics and preparing a report containing the results of the inquiry and the recommendations of the committee to be submitted to the Council in April.

Members of the committee include chairman Earl Callen (American University), Cooper, Peter Eisenberger (Bell Laboratories), Harold Ravache (National Bureau of Standards), George Rogosa (Atomic Energy Commission) and Mary Shoaf (APS). □