

Physicists and public policy: the "Forum" and the APS

Only two years old, the APS Forum on Physics and Society has proved its value as an instrument for encouraging physicists to employ their special skills for the benefit of society.

Barry M. Casper

Since World War II physicists have played a prominent role in developing weapons policy and science policy for our country. This interaction with the government has been carried out largely behind the scenes, beyond the public view, by an elite group of established and renowned physicists working through such institutions as the President's Science Advisory Committee, the National Academy of Sciences and the JASON program of the Institute for Defense Analyses. By and large most physicists have had no role in this process. In the past the physics profession has not encouraged physicists to involve themselves in public policy. It has not provided reward and recognition for this kind of activity.

A sequence of efforts to get physics as a profession and physicists as individuals more involved in societal issues began about five years ago. Much of this effort has centered on the professional society of physicists, the American Physical Society.

The object of the APS, according to its Constitution, is simply "the advancement and diffusion of knowledge of physics." For most of the 75 years of the Society's existence, its officials have interpreted this charge quite literally. The APS limited its activity to publishing professional journals and sponsoring professional meetings.

Today the APS has begun to change. It has altered its institutional structure with the creation of the Forum on Physics and Society, and committees on Professional Concerns, Minorities, Women in Physics, and Education. It has broadened the scope of its meetings by adding sessions that deal with the relation of science and society.

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And by establishing programs to promote public-policy work among its members, it has expanded its purpose. These changes in policy reflect a basic change in the philosophy of the APS.

How these changes came about, and what are the prospects for further change through the Forum on Physics and Society, is the concern of this article. To set the stage historically, I shall first review some of the efforts in the late 1960's to involve physicists in political and social affairs.

The Schwartz amendment

Perhaps the best known of these efforts was the Schwartz amendment. In 1967 Charles Schwartz, a nuclear theorist from the University of California, Berkeley, tried to publish a letter in *PHYSICS TODAY* urging physicists to oppose the Vietnam war. The editors turned him down, saying that the letter did not deal with "physics as physics" or "physicists as physicists."¹ This view—that the activities of a physicist can and should be compartmentalized into two separate boxes, one for his physics and the other for his social concerns—was often advanced in response to early attempts to broaden the scope of APS activities.

Schwartz responded by circulating a petition calling for an amendment to the APS Constitution allowing one percent of the membership to call for a vote on "any issue of concern to the Society." This proposed amendment was the focus of intense controversy. For several months *PHYSICS TODAY* published letters both pro and con. (See *PHYSICS TODAY*, January–April 1968.) The APS Council opposed the Schwartz amendment—even to the point of including with the ballot a list of reasons explaining why it should be defeated. In the end it was defeated by an overwhelming margin of three to one. A large majority of the members felt that the APS should not take a

public position concerning social issues.

However, the debate over Schwartz's proposal raised broader questions not directly addressed by this vote—questions about the responsibilities of the APS to its membership and to society. Should the APS promote discussion of the relation of physicists to society at its meetings and in its publications? Beyond this, should the APS play an active role in dealing with societal issues?

It was argued in the pages of *PHYSICS TODAY* that the APS should stay clear of societal issues because: (1) Physicists have no special competence to deal with social questions; the APS as the professional society of physicists should restrict itself to issues on which physicists do have special competence. (2) The meetings and publications, which presently serve their purposes well, might be badly diluted or disrupted by the injection of societal issues. (3) If physicists get involved in politically sensitive controversies, the relation of the physics community to the federal government could be jeopardized. In particular, federal funding of physics and the credibility of those physicists who advise the government could be adversely affected. (4) There are other organizations of scientists concerned with social and political issues. Let physicists come to the APS for their physics and to these other groups for their politics.

In reply it could be argued that: (1) Many physicists do have special competence in some areas of public policy, particularly aspects of weapons development and arms control, environmental problems, energy, and science policy. The APS could initiate programs to promote the involvement of physicists in dealing with these problems. (2) If additional sessions at meetings and journal articles are devoted to important issues of concern to physicists, the result will not be a disruption, but

rather a valuable service the APS can render to interested members. (3) The relation of the physics community to the government needs to be reexamined. Physics research in universities is funded largely by the federal government, yet the physics community as a whole has not debated or attempted to influence the priorities in the federal research budget, for example, the relative proportion of physics research in the civilian and military sectors. The APS could promote discussion of physics-funding priorities among its membership and attempt to influence these priorities. As for the credibility of those physicists who advise the government, it can be argued that for too long a small self-perpetuating group has been representing itself to the government as the voice of science. It is time to involve many more members of the physics community in working on public-policy problems. (4) There are some functions that the APS could perform in the physics and society area that other groups cannot, one such function being to promote public-policy work as a legitimate professional activity for physicists. Research and teaching are the respected work of physicists; involvement with societal issues is considered an extracurricular activity. One is labeled a "dropout" by the profession if he or she takes it up full time. The "better people" don't do that. The APS could aid in changing this attitude.

The ABM and the March amendment

Efforts to expand the role of physicists and the APS in societal problems intensified in the year following the Schwartz-amendment controversy. Two significant events occurred at the January 1969 APS meeting in New York. The first was the organization of Scientists for Social and Political Action (SSPA). The second was a petition calling for a new division of the APS that would concern itself with the relation between physics and society.

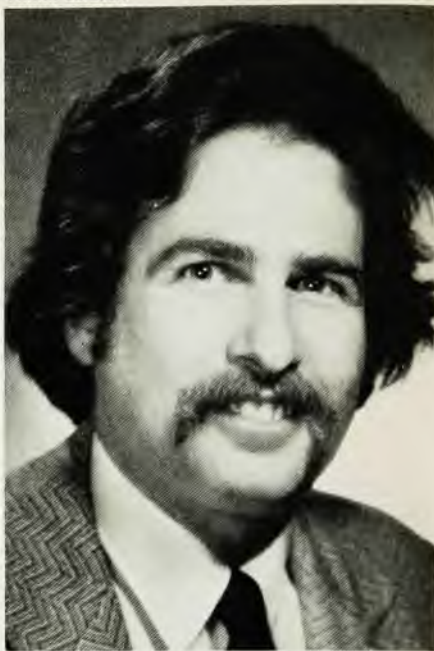
SSPA was the idea of two physicists, Martin Perl at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and Charles Schwartz at Berkeley. Their primary motivation was a feeling that the leadership of science had not lived up to its responsibilities—that it had been absorbed into the Washington establishment. A new organization was needed that could speak out on federal policies and on the moral responsibilities of scientists.

At the initial meeting of SSPA in New York the discussion centered on the proposed 4 March research stoppage, begun at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to protest the misuse of science, and on the proposed deployment of the antiballistic missile

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Brian Schwartz and Barry Casper (left and right) are, respectively, the coordinator of Forum-sponsored sessions at APS meetings and the current chairman of the Forum.

system. After the meeting many of the approximately three hundred physicists crowding the room became the first members of SSPA. They constituted a very broad coalition that included arms controllers and environmentalists, liberals and radicals. The first focus of SSPA activities was to enlist scientists in an organized effort to convince Congress not to vote funds for the ABM.

The Washington meeting in April 1969 featured a number of events unprecedented in the annals of the APS. The Society sponsored a debate involving Hans Bethe, Donald Brennan, George Rathjens, and Eugene Wigner (see PHYSICS TODAY, July 1969, page 99) supposedly limited to "Technical aspects of the ABM," but touching on many nontechnical aspects as well. More than two thousand people jammed the hall to hear presentations on both sides of the ABM issue. SSPA organized an orderly march of about 250 physicists, from the hotel to the White House, where a delegation was admitted to discuss the ABM with Science Advisor Lee DuBridge. SSPA also encouraged physicists to lobby in the Congress against the ABM. Following a lengthy briefing by two experienced lobbyists delegations of physicists visited the offices of over sixty senators, including all the uncommitted ones. They discussed the ABM with each senator or one of his aides and presented petitions opposing SAFEGUARD from physics departments in the senator's home state.

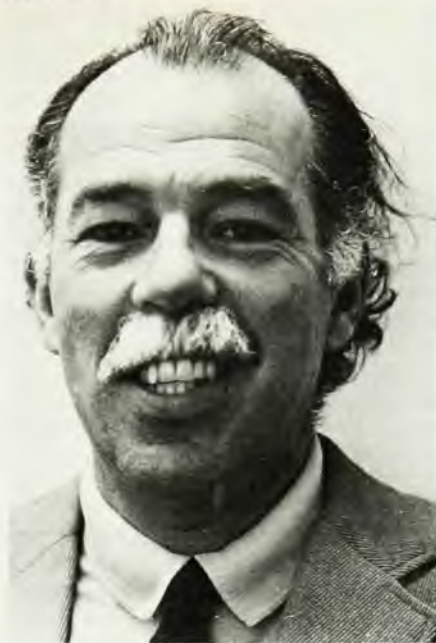
In 1971 Robert March of the University of Wisconsin made another attempt to change the APS Constitution.

He proposed that Article II be amended to read: "The object of the Society shall be the advancement and diffusion of the knowledge of physics in order to increase man's understanding of nature and to contribute to the enhancement of the quality of life for all people. The Society shall assist its members in the pursuit of these humane goals and it shall shun those activities which are judged to contribute harmfully to the welfare of mankind." In November 1972 PHYSICS TODAY published numerous letters from physicists in response to March's proposal. Many, who were otherwise sympathetic to the amendment, objected to the phrase "which are judged to contribute harmfully" (asking "who will judge?"), and the amendment failed by a vote of 4388 to 3579.

The failure of the March amendment, because of that unfortunate phrase, was mitigated by another development. The primary intent of the amendment had been to broaden the concerns of the APS from "advancement and diffusion of knowledge of physics" to include contributions "to the enhancement of the quality of life" and the "pursuit of humane goals," and considerable progress was made toward this objective in another way: through the creation of the Forum on Physics and Society.

The beginning of the Forum

The movement for creation of the Forum started at the January 1969 meeting when Brian Schwartz of MIT circulated a petition calling for the formation of a new APS division on physics and society. The APS Council re-



The first two chairmen of the Forum were Martin Perl (left), who served during 1973, and Earl Callen, elected chairman of the Forum when it was first founded in 1972.

sponsored by authorizing a Committee on Problems of Physics and Society (CPPS), with A. M. Clogston of Bell Laboratories as its chairman. A subcommittee of CPPS, led by Joel Primack of Harvard, considered the proposed new division and recommended that it be created. With Primack, Seymour Koenig of IBM and others arguing persuasively for the proposal, the Council agreed in August 1970 to poll the full membership on this matter. After APS members overwhelmingly approved the proposal, the Forum on Physics and Society was organized in January 1972. Its stated purpose was "the advancement and diffusion of knowledge regarding the interrelation of physics, physicists and society."

To avoid misunderstanding, it should be stressed that the Forum is in no sense a lineal descendant of SSPA or the supporters of the Schwartz amendment. It has a much broader constituency, representing the full range of views of APS members concerned with the social consequences of science.

The Forum institutionalizes within the APS a regular channel for discussing societal problems and for generating programs whereby physicists can become involved in solving these problems. In its first two years the Forum has made a significant impact on the Society.

Certainly it has come a long way toward opening up the APS meetings to discussion of societal issues. After it was established, the Forum, like other APS divisions, was routinely authorized to sponsor sessions at meet-

ings. Under the supervision of a program committee with Brian Schwartz as its chairman, the Forum now regularly organizes four sessions each at the annual and Washington meetings and a lesser number at some of the other meetings. Recent sessions have concerned such diverse topics as science and secrecy, scientists as government advisors, various aspects of energy policy, physics in China, the military implications of laser technology, and the communication of physics to the non-scientist. The Forum also sponsors sessions of contributed papers, open to any APS member who wishes to speak on physics-and-society issues.

These Forum sessions have added an important new dimension to APS meetings. The large audiences they attract amply justify their inclusion on the program; in fact they have consistently been among the most popular sessions.

About the only problem the Forum has encountered with its sessions is assuring that both sides of controversial issues are presented. In preparation for the Washington meeting in April 1973 Earl Callen, former chairman of the Forum, was unable to find anyone willing to defend publicly the government policy on secrecy. (In fact *The New York Times* devoted an entire article the next day to a description of his unsuccessful attempts to get someone from the Department of Defense or its advisory committees to come and talk about the policy.)² In addition, the Forum-session organizers were unable to find an APS member to speak in favor of the Administration's policy in Indochina at a session on physicists

and the war, and they had great difficulty finding anyone who would speak against the March amendment. However, we have met with more success recently. At the Washington meeting in April of this year we were able to arrange debates on nuclear-reactor safety and on the breeder-reactor program, as well as a talk on military applications of laser technology. I hope that future Forum sessions can provide APS members with an opportunity to weigh conflicting ideas about significant physics-and-society issues.

Another project initiated by the Forum is the Congressional Fellowship program. In regard to technical expertise Congress is well known to be at a severe disadvantage relative to the Executive Branch. There are only three scientists among the 535 members of the House and Senate and only a handful of individuals with technical backgrounds on the permanent staffs. In the fall of 1972 I organized a committee to study the possibility of the Society's sponsoring a program to allow physicists to work in a Congressional office or on the staff of a Congressional committee for a year. The members of the committee—John Andelin of the US House of Representatives, Anne Cahn of MIT, Joel Primack then of Harvard, Richard Scribner of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and myself—drew up a detailed proposal, and with the support of James Krumhansl, chairman of the Committee on the Future of the APS, we asked the Council to approve a Congressional Fellowship program with APS supplying funds for one fellow during the first year. We were very pleased in April 1973 when the APS Council not only approved the program but, on the recommendation of its Executive Committee, agreed to provide up to \$35 000 to support two fellows.

Although the selection process started very late in the year, with the help of publicity in *Science*, *PHYSICS TODAY*, and the *APS Bulletin*, as well as an unprecedented editorial in *Physical Review Letters*, applications were received from over forty physicists. Two outstanding candidates, Benjamin Cooper of Iowa State University and Richard Werthamer of Bell Laboratories, were the unanimous selections. They began their Washington activities in September 1973 along with three fellows sponsored by the AAAS and one from the IEEE.

Cooper is on the staff of Senator Henry Jackson's Interior Committee and Werthamer is in the office of Congressman Charles Mosher, ranking Republican member of the House Science and Astronautics Committee. Almost from the day they arrived they were assigned significant responsibilities.

Cooper has been involved in analyzing the petroleum shortage and developing legislation to deal with it, and Werthamer has helped organize the new Office of Technology Assessment.

The APS Council has approved funds for two more fellows for the coming year (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, March, page 79). The goal is now to expand the program. As Ben Cooper put it in a letter after his first four months in Washington, "Things are going great here—except I need three of me." Efforts are underway to convince other scientific professional societies to sponsor fellows and to seek private foundation support for an expanded program.

Sponsoring Congressional Fellows represents a significant extension of APS activities. Through this program the APS is directly encouraging physicists to become involved in public-policy work. Soon after our committee had presented its recommendation, I received a letter from APS executive secretary W. W. Havens Jr that put this point nicely:

"... by establishing a Congressional Science Fellowship, the American Physical Society gives its blessing to this type of activity and encourages physicists to become engaged in public service science ... I believe you should stress the fact that the APS is supporting the long range goal of legitimizing for physicists activities other than traditional teaching and research in universities and industry."

The most recently implemented Forum program relates directly to this point. The APS sponsors a number of prizes to reward significant contributions to research. There had been no such reward for contributions to the development of public policy. Consequently the Forum has just established two new awards to be presented each year at the Washington meeting. The Leo Szilard Award for Physics in the Public Interest honors a physicist for outstanding accomplishment in promoting the use of physics for the benefit of society, and the Forum Award recognizes an individual (not necessarily a physicist) who, through writing or films, has made an outstanding contribution to public understanding of significant physics-and-society issues. The Forum Executive Committee unanimously selected as the initial recipients two physicists who for many years have blazed the trail that we in the Forum now follow. In April 1974 David R. Inglis was presented with the Leo Szilard Award and Ralph E. Lapp received the Forum Award (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, April, page 51).

After only two years the Forum on Physics and Society has become an es-

tablished part of the APS. Members receive the *Forum Newsletter*, which alerts them to Forum activities and provides them with the opportunity to air their views on what policies the Forum should pursue. We have consciously adopted an open and experimental approach. Through the newsletter and through contributed-paper sessions at APS meetings, any Society member wishing to present his or her ideas on the interrelation of physics, physicists, and society now has access to an audience. More importantly, the Forum provides an opportunity to translate these ideas into concrete programs whereby physicists can participate in the public-policy process.

The future of the Forum

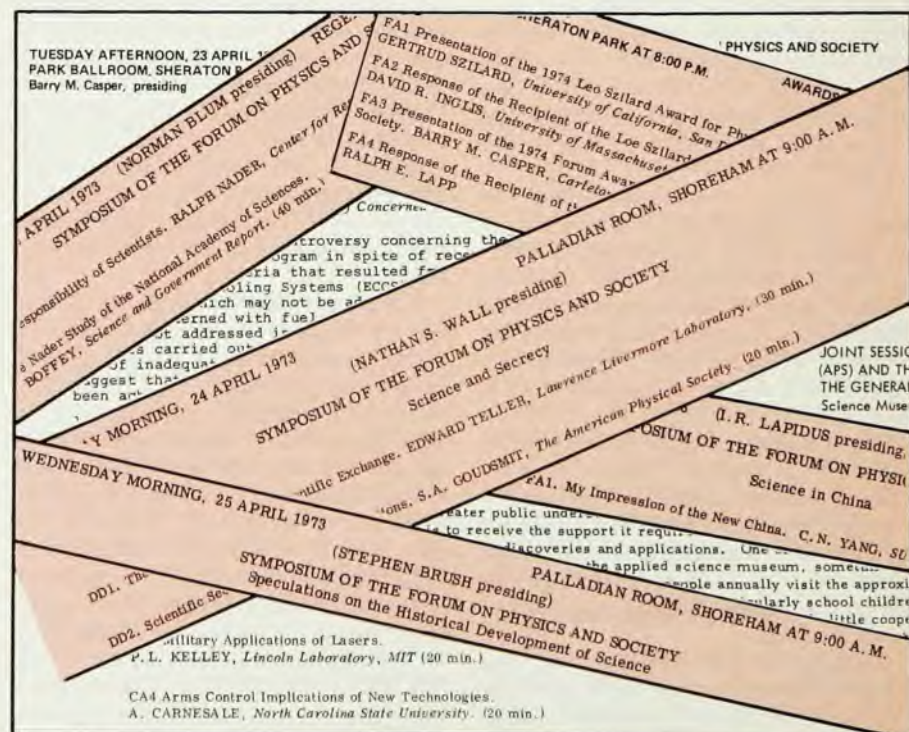
The recent changes in the APS constitute significant precedents. In instituting the Congressional Fellowship program the Society has shown that it is willing to go beyond discussion; it is willing to promote and sponsor public-policy work by physicists. In establishing the Leo Szilard and Forum awards the Forum has begun to provide recognition for those who contribute to the development of public policy. I would like to see the Forum build on these precedents.

I believe the APS should see to it that a much wider spectrum of the physics community has the opportunity to participate in what might be called the "public-interest process." The critical issues of the applications of science and technology require open,

informed debates in which the public is exposed to information and arguments on all sides. Except in isolated instances this has not happened in the past. The information channels from the scientific community to government have been monopolized by a small group of scientists, and by and large their advice has been delivered in secret.

We would not dream of delegating to a single individual or small group of physicists the exclusive responsibility for examining a scientific problem and determining the correct scientific viewpoint. Consensus does arise in physics, but only after the open, critical scrutiny of ideas, and, frequently, after extended debate in which all concerned physicists can participate. By the same token, physicists' input to public policy should be characterized by direct confrontation of diverse viewpoints in which all concerned—scientists, policy-makers, and the public—can participate. If we are to protect our democracy from the tyranny of the "expert," we must establish institutions that promote effective public confrontation of differing views on public-policy questions.

As for the secrecy question, I am aware of the argument that confidentiality is necessary to assure free and frank discussion and that those scientists who have been consulted by the government would never have attained the influence they had if their advice were tendered in public. I do not deny the considerable impact of PSAC and



A major contribution of the Forum has been its sponsorship at APS meetings of sessions on a wide variety of topics dealing with the relation of physics to society.

PETITION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY TO REQUEST THE FORMATION OF A NEW DIVISION ON THE PROBLEMS OF PHYSICS AND SOCIETY

Purpose:

The purpose of the proposed division is to advance and diffuse a better understanding of the interrelations of physics and physicists with the environment and with society.

The trend and pressures toward specialization in physics often keep physicists from seeing or considering the far-reaching connections between advances in their science and the consequences for society as a whole. Although some have concerned themselves with specific aspects, few have been able to share their insights widely and fewer still have considered the broad spectrum of problems.

A major purpose of this division would be to provide a convenient and proper forum for the discussion of the problems of physics and society. This would allow the present A.P.S. practice of scheduling sessions dealing with these topics to be replaced by regular sessions of membership participation, which would lead to more study, discussion, and action. The division would also provide a forum for the discussion of the problems of physics and society, which would lead to more study, discussion, and action. The division would also provide a forum for the discussion of the problems of physics and society, which would lead to more study, discussion, and action.

The division would naturally solicit advice from the membership on appropriate topics and speakers. The division would cooperate with similar groups in other scientific societies.

The original petition in support of a new division on the problems of physics and society was a joint effort of Brian Schwartz and Emmanuel (Mannie) Maxwell, both of the Francis Bitter National Magnet Laboratory at MIT. Superimposed on the petition is a note from Maxwell to Schwartz, written in the late fall of 1968, suggesting that the two of them "draw up a petition to collect signatures" at the 1969 APS meeting in New York. The note is pencilled on a photocopy of the APS bylaws; an arrow points to the relevant section dealing with the formation of new divisions.

OST in their day. However, I am more persuaded by the observation that in the past the advisory system, by throwing a cloak of secrecy over the conclusions of many of the best informed members of the scientific community, has effectively removed these people and their analyses from public debate.³

When the six former presidential science advisors got together recently, one of the topics of discussion was the energy crisis.⁴ It was pointed out that a 1966 OST study predicted almost all the energy problems we face today. At the time, however, there was no crisis to produce the political pressures required to make the government respond. It appears to me that this carries an important message: Advice from the scientific community to decision-makers must be paralleled by effective communication to the public. New mechanisms to alert the public must be developed that will "allow" our government to take timely action when crises are foreseen.

A unique position

The APS is in a unique position to contribute to the public-interest process. In cooperation with other professional societies it could sponsor studies of issues involving the applications of

science and technology. For example, a timely public assessment of SST technology by disinterested professional societies would have been a real public service, as would similar studies now of a number of energy-related issues. The problem with such studies in the past is that they have been sponsored by special-interest groups with a stake in the outcome or that they have been conducted in secret for agencies of the Executive Branch, which had the option of disregarding and suppressing their recommendations. The professional societies could sponsor high-quality studies that are not secret and not in the service of a special interest or a single branch of government. I do not claim that these studies would necessarily reveal "truth," but they would add an important new source of information for the public and decision-makers to use in developing public policy. One thing should be made clear, however; the goal of the studies should not be to develop an "APS position" on these issues. Rather, the goal is to contribute to an informed public debate.

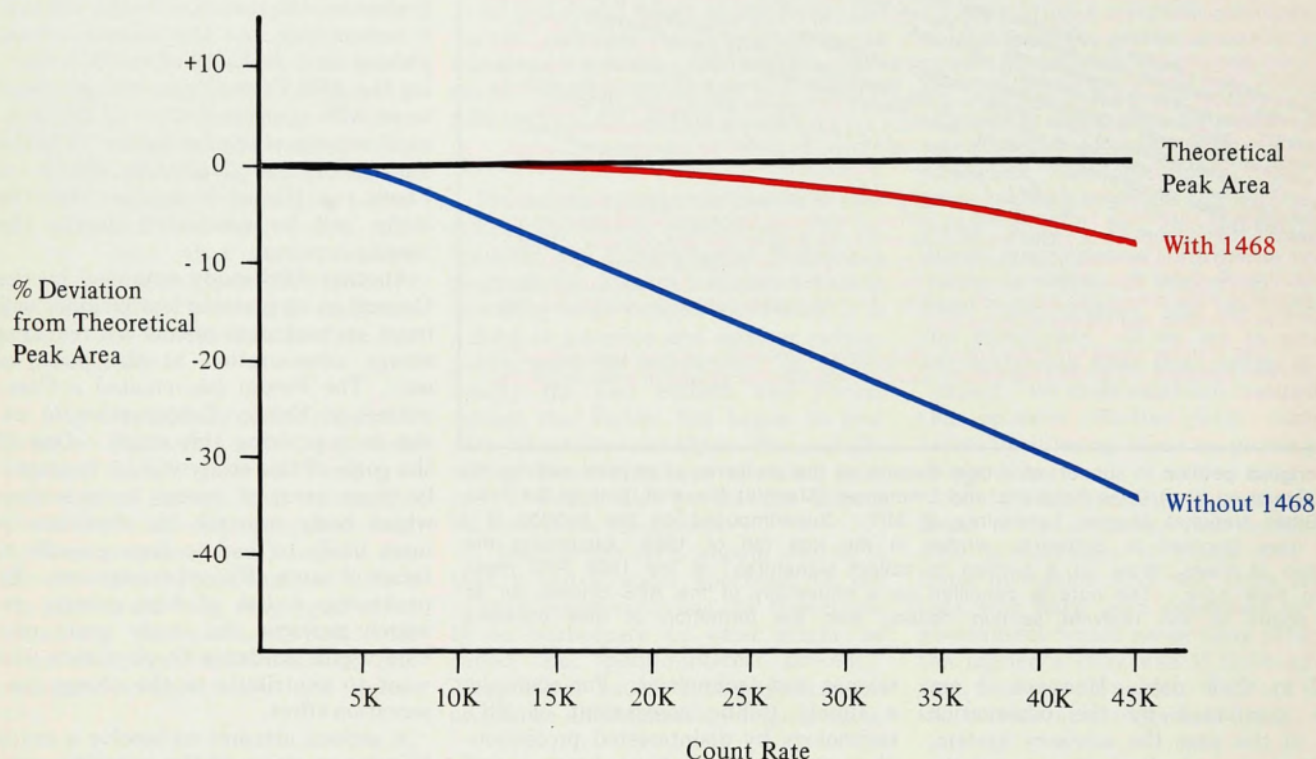
One current example of a topic worthy of such a study is nuclear-reactor safety. A public-interest organization, the Union of Concerned Scientists, has raised serious questions about the

emergency core cooling system in reactors that are presently in operation or under construction.⁵ It appears to me that the policy decision here should not be left up to the Atomic Energy Commission and the reactor industry, both of which already have enormous commitments to nuclear-power technology in its present form. An informed public debate on this issue would serve the long-term interests of our country. A study sponsored by professional societies such as the APS could effectively channel the resources of the scientific community into that debate. I am pleased that at its October 1973 meeting the APS Council gave the go-ahead to an APS-sponsored study of the technical aspects of reactor safety. Thanks largely to the dedicated efforts of Frank von Hippel it appears that the study will be conducted during the coming summer.

Another APS study approved by the Council at its meeting last October will focus on technical means for reducing energy consumption at the point of use. The Forum has created a Committee on Energy Conservation to assist in organizing this study. One of the goals of this study will be to identify those areas of energy consumption where basic research by physicists is most likely to lead to large payoffs in terms of more efficient energy use. By producing a list of high-priority research projects, the study could provide useful guidance to physicists who want to contribute to the energy-conservation effort.

A serious attempt to involve a much broader spectrum of the scientific community in the public-interest process might center around a proposed Public Interest Science Clearinghouse. Many scientists and engineers would like to use their expertise for the public benefit, but they are not aware of the projects that can use them. At the same time, public-interest organizations, state and local government officials, congressmen, the media and others are suffering from a lack of technically competent assistance. Professional societies could solicit and compile a roster of members interested in such activity. At the same time they could develop a variety of mechanisms for matching these scientists with the individuals and organizations needing this help. The Biophysical Society is currently developing such a roster, and at the conference, "Scientists in the Public Interest: The Role of Professional Societies," held at Alta, Utah, in September 1973 a task force was established to bring a proposal for a joint program to a number of other professional societies. A Forum committee with Joel Primack of the University of California, Santa Cruz, as chairman is cooperating with this task force and is

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drawing up a proposal to be presented to the APS Council.

These are examples of things I think the APS should do. There are also some things I think it should avoid. At its February 1974 meeting the APS Council authorized the president of the Society to respond to congressional requests for advice on technical issues related to public policy. Two letters have already been submitted to senators giving the views of the APS president (in consultation with the Council's Executive Committee) on how the federal government should be reorganized to deal with energy problems. I think this is a mistake. These documents will be interpreted as giving "the APS position." I believe the APS should respond to such requests, but not with the view of the president, or the Council, or even that of the majority of APS members. Mechanisms should be developed that would allow the APS to respond with a variety of well argued position papers representing the diverse views of the membership.

In addition to sponsoring new programs the APS can help in other ways to take public-interest science out of the realm of extracurricular activity and make it a respected professional activity of physicists. Graduate schools inculcate a hierarchy of values. Basic research is the prestige activity; applied research and teaching are less desirable; to do public-policy work full time is to drop out of the profession. This summer the Forum and the American Association of Physics Teachers are jointly sponsoring a conference on "Tradition and Change in Physics Graduate Education" (19-23 August 1974). One item on the agenda will be means for upgrading the status of public-policy work. Such a change in attitude within the physics profession is possible—witness what has happened in the legal profession over the past few years. There has been a significant shift among young lawyers toward public-interest areas such as welfare rights and environmental law. Even many of those young lawyers who join prestigious firms spend a day a week on *pro bono* work.

How to join the Forum

Whether or not the Forum will succeed will depend on whether or not APS members make it succeed—by joining the Forum, creating ideas for new programs and working to implement these programs. The Forum is entirely supported by the \$2.00 annual dues of its members. By contacting E. Kevin Cornell, Forum Secretary-treasurer, Physics Department, American University, Washington, D.C. 20016, any APS member can join and begin receiving the *Forum Newsletter*.

I am not suggesting that physics give up its traditional emphasis on basic research—simply that it recognize public-policy work as an alternative, equally respectable endeavor of physicists.

Some new projects

With an informal and experimental style the Forum encourages its members to initiate new projects involving the relation of physicists to society. Some of the projects recently undertaken are far enough along to deserve mention here.

One Forum committee, under Callen's chairmanship, is considering a modest suggestion concerning APS elections. In the past, election of the APS presidents or election to the APS Council has been based strictly on prestige in physics research. Indeed, until two years ago only APS fellows were eligible. The ballot is accompanied only by a listing of professional credentials; there is no statement by the candidate of what policies he or she would like to see the APS implement. This may have been reasonable when the function of the Society was limited to holding meetings and publishing journals, but given the members' increasing concern with issues such as those I have discussed, it may be appropriate to change this procedure.

The American Chemical Society provides a useful model. A recent issue of *Chemical and Engineering News*⁶ carried a comprehensive statement by each candidate for ACS office in response to the questions: "What would you hope to accomplish as President (or director) of ACS?" and "What specific changes, if any, in the ACS organization or programs would you propose to achieve your goals?" Callen's committee is considering recommending that APS candidates be asked to respond to similar questions and that these responses be circulated with the ballots or perhaps published in *PHYSICS TODAY*.

An Arms Control Committee under the chairmanship of Anne Cahn is seeking to broaden the base of interest and expertise among physicists in the arms-control field by sponsoring sessions at APS meetings and organizing programs to involve APS members in arms-control research. It will also seek to develop more effective channels of communication between physicists working on arms control and the Congress on the one hand, and the public on the other. One project being considered by the committee is a one- or two-day symposium on the relation of technology to the arms race to be held at next year's APS meeting in Washington. Another proposal would involve developing a list of arms-control research projects particularly suited to

the interests and expertise of physicists.

A Committee on Placement, under Eugen Merzbacher of the University of North Carolina, is looking into possible improvements in the AIP Placement Service for physicists seeking employment. It is also monitoring the effectiveness of the recently established APS Doctoral Employment Information Service.

A Committee on Courses on Physics and Society will collect and disseminate information concerning such courses. It is planning to organize a workshop for prospective teachers of physics-and-society courses on the Sunday prior to next year's annual meeting at Anaheim. Dietrich Schroer of the University of North Carolina is chairman of this committee.

Another proposal being considered is a new *Journal of Physics and Society*. This journal would provide a forum for technical articles on the application of physics to specific national needs, as well as review articles, pedagogy and debates on controversial public-policy issues. It would stimulate research on unsolved technical problems of import to society, reward physicists who work on these problems with publication in a reputable journal, and foster the kind of direct confrontation of ideas on public policy that is so urgently needed. Hyman Goldberg of Northeastern University is chairman of the Forum committee on this proposal.

This brief discussion indicates the kind of new dimensions the Forum brings to the APS. In its first two years it has demonstrated that it can contribute significant new programs concerning the relationship of physicists and society. But this is just a beginning. Now we need feedback on the projects described here and, more importantly, we need the active participation of many more physicists. With this support I am confident the Forum will serve as a continuing generator of new ideas and constructive change within the APS.

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