

Notes from the summer meeting

The members of the Executive/Budget Committee met again this year on 30 June, 1 July and 2 July at Lenape, Pennsylvania to review the affairs of the Society, evaluate the progress made in new programs during the last year, and set priorities for activities during the coming year.

A report from Eugen Merzbacher (University of North Carolina), chairman of the Committee on Education, was read, containing his committee's unanimous recommendation that the Society not seek to have undergraduate physics curricula classified as professional degree programs. The question had been raised because such a classification in some states might have entitled physics departments to higher subsidies in the state education budget. Investigations show that few members within the Society wish it to become an agency that accredits or certifies undergraduate physics programs or sets minimum standards for budget allocations. The National Commission on Accreditation considers accreditation appropriate only for those programs of instruction that lead to primarily practice-oriented professions, which often require licensure or certification in addition to the degree.

The Committee did consider the high cost of physics education a particularly vexing problem in the physics community, but felt that it would be more appropriate for the Committee to begin collecting information on current costs and making members aware that this information, once acquired, might be useful to them in seeking redress of budget grievances.

The Executive Committee also considered a lengthy report from the Committee on Meetings and voted unanimously to recommend to the Council that, beginning in 1979, the annual meeting be held in New York every odd year and alternately in Chicago and San Francisco in even years. The joint Southeastern Section APS meeting would occur every four years when the annual meeting is scheduled for San Francisco.

To accommodate the shift in scheduling at colleges and universities, the Council will be asked to approve changes in the dates of the major Society meetings as soon as such changes can be negotiated with hotels. The an-

nual and March meetings would be moved ahead two weeks and the Washington meeting would be moved ahead one week.

The Executive Committee also moved to recommend that no later than 1979 a new general meeting be held in early June. This annual meeting will stress physics research that is related to important national problems.

Philip Morse (MIT), chairman of the Panel on Public Affairs, and his assistant Thomas Neff (MIT), joined the Executive/Budget Committee on 1 July when the planning, execution and presentation of the three APS studies begun last year were evaluated. Morse reported that the Panel on Public Affairs steering committee had approved the report of the subcommittee on study guidelines.

After some revision, the Executive Committee approved the report, which was published in its entirety in the September issue of the *Bulletin*. The subcommittee is now preparing a manual for use by study-group members.

Morse and Neff then discussed at length ideas for possible future APS summer studies and for topical conferences. The Executive Committee encouraged the Panel on Public Affairs to begin preliminary work on the organization of a summer study on technical aspects of plutonium recycling and related topics. (See September *BAPS*.)

Employment information resolution offered

"The council of the American Physical Society recommends that each physics department which operates a graduate program designate and identify a faculty member to serve as an employment information officer. This faculty member would receive and disseminate information on employment patterns and would counsel graduate students and other interested persons on career opportunities for physicists."

Brian Schwartz (MIT), vice chairman of the committee on professional concerns (which formulated this resolution for presentation to the council at its April meeting) and Ray Sears, director of the Manpower Division of the American Institute of Physics, have written to the chairman of all physics departments

that offer graduate programs inviting each to name an employment information officer for the department. These officers will receive regularly, from Sears, employment information and other special manpower reports that can then be offered to other faculty and students.

Suggestions for materials that should be sent to employment information officers are welcome and should be sent to Ray Sears, AIP, 335 East 45th St, New York, N.Y. 10017

Hebel named chairman of APS summer study

An APS summer study on the technical aspects of plutonium recycling and related topics will take place in 1976, and Charles Hebel has been appointed chairman. Hebel and members of the Panel on Public Affairs are now developing the proposal for the study that will be considered by the APS Council at its meeting on 7 November.



HEBEL

Hebel was a member of the APS summer-study group that prepared the report on light-water reactor safety. He is manager of the physical and chemical sciences laboratory at the Xerox Research Center in Webster, New York, which is responsible for research in the physics and chemistry of photoconductors, organic materials and xerographic sciences. Before he joined Xerox in 1973, Hebel was director of physical research at the Sandia Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico. □