

letters

courts if IRS persists in its illegal action.

We should encourage all eligible beneficiaries of this limited tax liability exemption to exercise their right according to law.

ELLEN J. WACHTEL
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

ORNL's new name

News of the change in name of Oak Ridge Laboratory has come to many of us in the physics community as a sudden shock. This is a perfect example of an undemocratic process in which the decision to change the name of an internationally known laboratory has been made by the government without informing the people whose hard work for many decades has made the laboratory's reputation. I have nothing against President Ford recognizing Senator Holifield's contributions, but he could have done that by naming something new for Senator Holifield. It is unethical to change a 30-year-old laboratory's name without giving its people a chance to present their views. I strongly suggest that our government should restore the laboratory's original name.

M. A. IZAZ
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UNESCO-funded conference

During 29 July to 6 August 1975 an international conference on physics education is to be held in Edinburgh, Scotland. The conference will review a decade of change in the teaching of physics and will examine the need for further change. The plans provide for the attendance of a total of about 250 participants from all over the world.

This conference is being organized by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics through its Commission on Physics Education. It is receiving financial support from a number of sources, including UNESCO.

We should like to emphasize that complete freedom of access to its meetings is a fundamental principle of IUPAP. The financial support of the Edinburgh conference by UNESCO is equally free of any restrictions and would not have been accepted (or acceptable) on any other terms.

We felt it to be desirable to clarify these points, in view of publicity that has been given to certain resolutions, discriminating against Israel, that were voted recently by the UNESCO General Conference. We deplore those actions as inappropriate for an organization that by charter and long custom has

been nonpolitical. We would like to see these actions rescinded. Meanwhile, we want to reiterate that the Edinburgh conference will be truly international, and we hope that some of our Israeli colleagues will participate.

A. P. FRENCH
(Chairman,
International Planning Committee for the
Conference)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
W. C. KELLY
(Chairman
International Commission
on Physics Education)
National Research Council
Washington, D.C.

Conserve tenure?

Eugene Marshalek's proposal (September, page 11) that a "permanent job exchange" be set up to loosen the frozen situation among tenured faculty in physics is a welcome beginning. But it may be viewed as counterproductive, relying as it does on the "conservation of tenure." It must be kept in mind that the "particles and holes" he envisions being created in the job-exchange system will be mainly those physicists who have kept up at least moderate interest and activity in their fields of specialization. What about the vast sea of tenured physics faculty members who are genuine dead wood? These faculty will go on occupying their tenured positions to the detriment of both tenured faculty who would like to make a change in location for one reason or another, as well as the untenured faculty who, in these saturated times, must bounce from one untenured position to another or just disappear from the scene completely.

Clearly, one improves the situation enormously by doing away with tenure. A system of semitenure could be established in its place where, upon being granted this status, a faculty member would receive contracts for five years at a time with a review of his contribution to his department and the physics profession made one year before the end of the contract. Such a system would clearly reduce the dead-wood background and would open up a quantity of new "holes" that could be filled by the "particles" among us, tenured and untenured alike.

GARY GREENHUT
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Legon, Ghana

Quantizing common sense

Lawrence Litt does well to refer to the quotation of Niels Bohr on the complementarity of truth and clarity, in his book review of *Quantum Physics and Wave Mechanics*. (February, page 55: Bohr was asked, "What variable is com-

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