

Company, Lynchburg, Virginia. Murty was previously a research fellow at the University of Newcastle, Australia.

David C. Camp of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory has been appointed adjunct assistant professor to the department of radiology, University of California Medical School.

John P. McKelvey, formerly of Pennsylvania State University, has been appointed head of the department of physics and astronomy at Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina.

Steven J. Yellin, **Daniel C. Wilkins** and **Allan R. King** have been appointed assistant professors-in-residence at the physics department of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

David S. Saxon has been appointed president of the University of California. Saxon, a member of the UCLA physics

faculty since 1947, is currently provost of the university system and executive vice-chancellor of the Los Angeles campus.

John M. Osepchuk has been named a consulting scientist at Raytheon Co's research division in Waltham, Mass. This appointment to Raytheon's highest scientific and engineering level is made to recognize continually outstanding research or engineering achievements.

Gabriel M. Loiacono, formerly with the Isomet Corp, has joined the exploratory research group of Philips Laboratories in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.

Willis Dean Smith and **Lloyd B. Craine** have been selected as Congressional Fellows by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. They will serve on the staff of a Congressional committee, Senator or Congressman for one year.

Kalinath Mukherjee has been named head of the department of physical and engineering metallurgy at the Polytechnic Institute of New York. He succeeds George Fischer, who has been appointed dean of continuing professional studies.

New editor of *Physical Review A* is **Robert H. Tucker**, succeeding **C. Lewis Snead, Jr.**

Samuel A. Goudsmit has joined the physics department of the University of Nevada at Reno as distinguished visiting professor. He will be developing an elementary-physics course for humanities majors.

Kenneth W. Ford has been appointed president of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, effective 1 July. He is presently professor of physics at the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

with nuclear energy, which began before the government preempted the field and extended beyond retirement—all these and more cannot be described here.

He was honored frequently during the long period from 1914 (Rumford Medal) to 1975 (induction on 9 February into the National Inventors Hall of Fame). Numerous medals and awards, foreign and domestic, came from an unusually wide variety of organizations and disciplines.

Coolidge's two greatest contributions continue to serve mankind almost in the form he made them. They are lasting evidence of his firm belief in experiment as the surest guide to progress in science. In his case it was *informed* experiment, to which he brought quick perception, keen insight, great resourcefulness and enduring tenacity. We need men like him today.

HERMAN A. LIEBHAFSKY
Texas A&M University
College Station

Walter Christian Michels

Walter C. Michels, internationally known physicist and science educator, died on 27 February at his home in Wayne, Pennsylvania. Born 14 June 1906 in Utica, New York, Michels received an electrical engineering degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1927 and a PhD from the California Institute of Technology in 1930. He was a National Research Council Fellow at Princeton University from 1930 to 1932, at which time he joined the department of physics at Bryn Mawr Col-

lege, serving as its chairman during 1936-1970. Except for leaves of absence, notably as a research scientist and naval officer during World War II, he remained at Bryn Mawr, becoming professor emeritus in 1972. His research interests included excitation of atomic spectra, the solid state and psychophysics.

Michels was deeply involved in teaching and editing from the beginning of his professional career, and for a quarter of a century has been recognized on a national scale, initially in the American Association of Physics Teachers. He was president of AAPT in 1956-57 and was instrumental in promoting renewed vigor and activity of that organization. From 1959 to 1966 he was editor of the *American Journal of Physics*. He participated in the development of the physical science study committee physics course and related curricula, and when the Commission on College Physics was established in 1960, Michels was its first chairman. His publications include well known books on electrical measurements, co-authorship of texts on general physics, and the editorship of the *International Dictionary of Physics and Electronics*. He was, from 1964 to 1970, editor of Momentum Books, a series of paperbacks for students of physics, and for many years he played an important role in the improvement of standardized tests, for example, the Graduate Record Examination. In 1963 he was chosen to receive the Oersted Medal, an award made annually by AAPT for notable contributions to the teaching of physics.

Michels was a colorful figure, red haired and red bearded, vigorous and forthright, with an infectious sense of

humor combined with the most serious sense of responsibility. His colleagues everywhere respected his wisdom, judgment, integrity and, over an enormous range of activities, his taste. He was both gentle and righteous, and almost inevitably right. To those who knew him there was no contradiction between the sincere Quaker and the effective war researcher and naval officer (by 1944 he had become a Commander in the USNR). It is salutary to recall his reaction to the destruction of the Japanese cyclotrons by American soldiers in 1945, for it was a valiant expression of sanity in a world too prone to hysteria. His memorandum of 20 November, which was made public later, during the struggle for civilian control of atomic energy, began:

"I have just taken part in an act of vandalism which is paralleled only by those which were perpetrated during the 15th and 16th centuries, or, possibly, by the book burnings which accompanied the establishment of the Nazi party in Germany Ten o'clock on the morning of November 20 was H-hour for the seizure, preliminary to destruction, of all equipment which had been used for research in nuclear physics in the laboratories of Japanese universities. . . ."

Michels, the only American physicist in the area, did not refuse the request that he be a member of the party assigned to this task at Kyoto University, repugnant as it was, for he hoped to prevent wanton destruction of general research equipment. This, along with his protest, was typical of Michels.

MELBA PHILLIPS
State University of New York
Stony Brook