

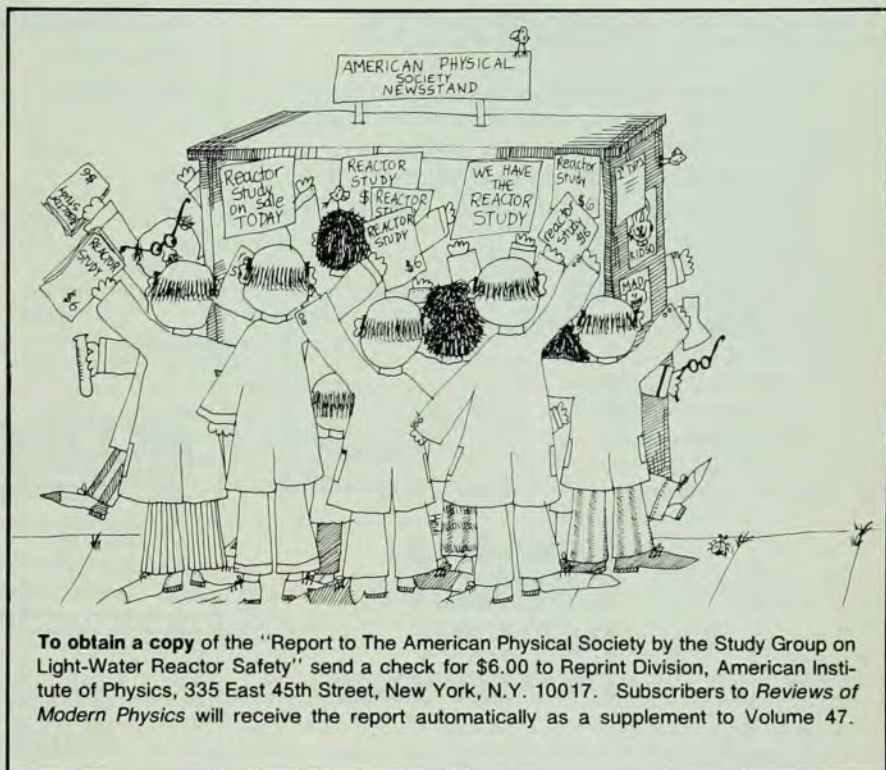
Reactor study captures interest in diverse sectors

The American Physical Society has released the report of a year-long study conducted under its sponsorship to examine technical aspects of the safety of light-water nuclear power reactors (see page 38). The study has already received widespread coverage in newspapers, trade magazines and the publications of scholarly and professional societies, and has attracted the attention of legislators.

After the APS council accepted the report, study-group chairman Harold Lewis (University of California, Santa Barbara) and four members of the group presented it to the membership and public on 28 April during the society's Washington meeting.

Senator Henry Jackson (D-Washington) and Representative Mike McCormack (D-Washington) cosponsored a briefing on the report on 29 April that was attended by some 50-60 Congressmen and members of their staffs. The letter of invitation to the briefing expressed gratification that APS had "interpreted its role to include independent examination of important public policy issues such as nuclear reactor safety which involves important scientific and technical questions." Jackson, in his capacity as member of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, has asked William Anders, chairman of NRC and Robert Seamans Jr, administrator of the Energy Research and Development Administration, to respond to the results and recommendations in the report that pertain to each agency's responsibilities. Jackson asked them to discuss particularly:

- ▶ The extent to which ERDA and NRC are responsible for contributing to specific areas of the reactor safety question



To obtain a copy of the "Report to The American Physical Society by the Study Group on Light-Water Reactor Safety" send a check for \$6.00 to Reprint Division, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017. Subscribers to *Reviews of Modern Physics* will receive the report automatically as a supplement to Volume 47.

and for handling related problems. ▶ Current efforts and policy in each area.

- ▶ Significant funding requests for program support in ERDA and NRC budgets for fiscal year 1976 relevant to these efforts.

- ▶ Changes in emphasis or policy, if any, that they intend to make in response to the recommendations.

Response to the study from those both inside and outside the physics community has been varied. Some nu-

clear critics have been reported as assuming, incorrectly, that the report is a critique of the Draft Wash-1400 reactor-safety report prepared under the direction of Norman Rasmussen (MIT) for the former Atomic Energy Commission. Other printed accounts tend to concur with the opinion of Herbert Kouts, Director of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, who regards the report as a responsible work that merits very serious consideration.

Maxwell Labs sponsors new plasma-physics prize

Maxwell Laboratories is sponsoring a new prize that will be awarded during the next five annual meetings of the APS division of plasma physics. The \$3500 James Clerk Maxwell Prize for Plasma Physics will recognize "outstanding contributions to the advancement and diffusion of the knowledge of properties of highly ionized gases of natural or laboratory origin." It will be

awarded to US residents for work done primarily in the US, and the first presentation will take place during the division's November meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida.

APS President Chien Shiung Wu has appointed the selection committee, which consists of chairman Melvin Gottlieb (Princeton), Solomon J. Buchsbaum (Bell Laboratories), Harry Dreicer (LASL), Roy W. Gould (California Institute of Technology) and Wulf Kunkel (Berkeley).

Bulletin shunners: Try the yellow pages!

The colored insert that will be used regularly in the *Bulletin of the American Physical Society*, starting in July, will make it easier to find more detailed reports about what's happening within the society. If you are in the habit of "never reading the *Bulletin*," try scanning the new insert for a few months to see if you are missing anything. Then throw it away.