

Prospects for science advice office

At its November 1975 meeting, the Council of the American Physical Society discussed congressional development of an effective federal science advisory mechanism. Also under consideration were publication policy for *Physical Review Letters*, the council's position on support for UNESCO, and participation in physics by minorities.

APS President Chien-Shiung Wu will send letters to Senators Edward Kennedy (D., Mass.), John Tunney (D., Calif.) and Frank Moss (D., Utah) indicating her support for HR 10230, a House-passed bill on science advice (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, December 1975, p. 69). The bill stresses the need for placing science and technology policy decisions in a broad national framework; creates a federal Office of Science and Technology Policy, with its director the presidential science advisor; and establishes a federal survey committee to consider science and technology prospects.

Council members reviewed the history of the *Physical Review Letters* publication policy as a result of publicity given to the magnetic monopole. The council stressed its dedication to the rapid and accurate dissemination of information to both the scientific community and the public. Accordingly, reports of new developments in the public news media will not be considered as prior publication prejudicial to article acceptance in APS journals.

The council endorsed the position on UNESCO taken by the National Academy of Sciences, which reaffirmed its belief in the purposes of UNESCO. Despite clear and evident problems, NAS believes that the organization's goals merit continued effort by the Academy, in cooperation with others, to make it possible for UNESCO to fulfill the functions for which it was created. The council regrets the several actions of the General Conference of UNESCO which have denied some nations the opportunity to participate fully in the organization's work. The council urged the Director General of UNESCO to use his authority to achieve full participation of all member nations in the work of UNESCO, and it urged the US government to exert every effort to reverse the trend toward dissipation of UNESCO's potential for service to the world's people. President Wu will write a letter to the Director General of UNESCO convey-



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ing her sentiments on this development.

A motion to recognize the lack of a significant level of participation by minorities in physics as a national concern was unanimously approved. It was stressed that the council supports, on a national scale, well-formulated private and public programs designed to increase the participation of minorities.

The council endorsed a recommendation that \$50,000 be transferred from accumulated income to establish a new building reserve fund, approved a study on plutonium recycling with L. C. Hebel designated as chairman, and authorized publication of a bicentennial volume of reprints of historic papers in physics. Funds were allocated to develop a science writers' seminar to be held in cooperation with the AIP.

The Committee on the Applications of Physics is sponsoring a series of conferences to take place concurrently with APS meetings. Also, about 10 000 APS members responded to the *Physical Review Abstracts* questionnaire to indicate their interest in continuing their subscriptions to the publication after 1 January 1976.

Short course in polymers precedes March meeting

A short course in polymer physics, sponsored by the APS, will be offered on 27 and 28 March 1976, the weekend before the March APS meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. This 12-hour course is

designed for those seeking acquaintance with fundamentals and with recent developments in the field.

The course will meet from 8:30 in the morning till noon and from 1:30 till 5:00 in the afternoon both days, and complete lecture notes will be provided. Tuition is \$100 if payment is received before 15 February 1976, and \$125 thereafter. Further information about the course itself is available from Roger S. Porter, head of the Polymer Science and Engineering Department at the University of Massachusetts' Graduate Research Center in Amherst; the phone number is (413) 545 0433.

Special registration blanks and housing forms for enrollment are provided in the January or February issues of the *APS Bulletin*. All registrants will be notified before the March meeting if the short course is cancelled for lack of participants, and tuition fees will be refunded in that case.



APS continues fellowship program

The APS Council has again authorized participation in the Congressional Scientist Fellowship Program. Two physicists will be funded to serve one year in a congressional office or with a congressional committee staff.

The fellowship stipend is \$16 000, plus allowances for vouchered travel expenses. Members of the APS are being invited to apply for these appointments before 15 March 1976; each applicant should submit a letter of intent and a resume and arrange for three letters of reference to be sent directly to the program administrator, Carol Z. Rosen, at the APS offices at 335 East 45 Street, New York, New York (zip code 10017). A candidate should include in his letter of intent a statement that tells why he is applying, and he should describe situations in which his interest in public service activities has been translated into a plan of action, including results of the plan's implementation. □