

Quebec meeting—a time for retrospect and prospect

Reviews and discussions concerning the pattern of Society meetings, the programs for summer studies and the future building plans of the American Institute of Physics were among the agenda items brought before The American Physical Society Executive/Budget Committee at its long-range planning meeting held 14–17 June in Quebec. William A. Fowler (California Institute of Technology), president of APS, presided.

The Committee met in the Pavillon Vachon of Laval University—the site of the Tripartite Congress of the Canadian Association of Physicists, the Sociedad Mexicana Fisica and The American Physical Society. The trilingual recognition of this special Congress was delivered by Larkin Kerwin, chancellor of Laval University, who addressed the banquet audience in French, English and Spanish.

The agenda for the Committee was organized to review the operations of the Society during the past year and to make recommendations for improvements in the future. A more complete report of the meeting has been published in the July/August issue of the *Bulletin*.

One important agenda item was the discussion of the report of the Committee on Meetings, which recommended several changes in the pattern of meetings of the Society. The attendance at the regular and annual meetings has been declining, and the costs of the meetings themselves have been rising rapidly. An increasing number of physicists have been discouraged from staying at headquarters hotels because of limited travel funds and the high cost of hotel-room charges (even when special convention rates are negotiated). Alternative formats for contributed paper sessions, such as Poster Sessions, are being explored to give the Society more latitude in negotiating for public space in hotels and additional special efforts will be made to decrease meeting costs whenever possible.

While recalling to mind memories of many years of successful Winter Meetings in the West, the Committee reviewed the decreasing attendance pattern of this meeting in recent years and voted to discontinue scheduling it. Similar considerations also led to the recommendation to discontinue the June Meeting—in lieu of these meetings W. W. Havens (Columbia University), Executive Secretary,



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was directed to explore the possibilities of organizing a general meeting of the Society in the fall. A number of Divisions of the Society now schedule their major divisional meetings during this season, and these could serve as the nucleus for a general meeting (replacing one of the large meetings held in the period January–April). Because meetings are scheduled some five years in advance, this kind of proposed change cannot be made until late in the decade.

APS representatives on an *ad hoc* Committee on Building Plans of AIP, which is headed by H. Richard Crane (University of Michigan), are Luis Alvarez (University of California–Berkeley), Lee DuBridge (California Institute of Technology), Norman F. Ramsey (Harvard University) and G. King Walters (Rice

University). They, together with representatives of other AIP member societies, will consider problems of suitable quarters and location for AIP headquarters, publications and member-society activities, and the related problems for the American Physical Society headquarters location. Considerable time was spent during the Quebec Meeting discussing the Society's need for and use of AIP services such as those provided by the Manpower Statistics Division, the Placement Service and Public Relations; the access to and use of the Center for History of Physics, and the access to Society offices and services by members were also reviewed. It was agreed that the Society is committed to a program of member-related services and that Crane's committee should explore and report on the probable cost of viable alternative plans.

The Panel on Public Affairs (POPA) was asked to review the program of summer studies to be organized by the Society and to reconsider the priorities assigned to them. Following discussion of the interaction of study groups with sponsoring agencies, POPA was requested to modify its *Guidelines for the Organization of Studies* for the inclusion of these stipulations: representatives of the sponsoring agencies should be invited to meet with members of the study group as soon as possible after organization to review the scope of work that has been planned, further meetings with representatives of sponsoring agencies would be only for the exchange of factual information, and the study group should organize the preparation and presentation of its final report so that sponsoring agencies do not review the report prior to its presentation to the Council.

Chien-Shiung Wu (Columbia University), member of the executive board of the Committee of Scientific Society Presidents, reviewed action by that group during the past year in support of the establishment of a Presidential Science Advisory Office and in support of adequate funding by Congress for basic and applied research.

The Society's budget for FY 1976–77 was reviewed in detail and approved by the Committee. A number of options for cost reduction of the *Bulletin* were discussed. There will be no changes in page charges or in subscription prices at this time. □

New ballot deadline announced

In order to provide ample opportunity for all members of the Society to vote on the proposed revised Constitution of the APS (see the June *Bulletin*), the deadline for the return of ballots has been delayed until 1 October. Ballots will be mailed later this month and should be returned, after being marked, in the envelope provided. Members are reminded that they must sign their names on the return envelope.