and the group would maintain contact with experimentalists through seminars and other activities. The institute would aim at bringing in theorists from different subfields, home institutions and age groups; according to present estimates, about three-quarters of the staff would be supported by the institute—others would employ sabbatical funds or other outside aid.

Another idea suggested to the Foundation calls for several smaller endeavors, each of which would work on one particular inter-subfield area. Three to five groups composed of perhaps ten physicists apiece would carry on their research at existing universities and labs. Most group members would participate while on long-term leaves from their home institutions. Both the single-institute and the multi-group approaches include limited lifetimes of several years.

The following represent the sort of physics problems to which the institute or groups might contribute:

- the study of fundamental forces, such as the weak interaction, by means of experiments involving nuclei;
- the physics of atoms with nuclear charges on the order of 200, formed momentarily in heavy-ion collisions, and
- the study of neutron stars.

The NSF is soliciting ideas from the physics community as to what form the new institute for theoretical physics should take; suggestions need not conform to any predetermined guidelines at this stage, nor are full-scale proposals being sought prior to FY1977. Letters should be sent to Boris Kayser, Program Director for Theoretical Physics, Division of Physics, NSF, 1800 G St, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20550.

in brief

ERDA has signed a $1.6-million contract with the Rand Corp to conduct a program of broad, long-range energy policy studies.

Copies of LCD-74-122, *Further Opportunities to Improve Radio Spectrum Management in the Federal Sector*, are available from the US General Accounting Office, Washington, D.C. 20548.

the physics community

AAPM chooses Wootton as president-elect

Peter Wootton has been chosen the new president-elect of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. Wootton, professor of radiology and director of medical radiation physics at the University of Washington, Seattle, succeeds William R. Hendee, who has become president of AAPM.

A native of England, Wootton studied at the University of Birmingham and

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worked as a radiation physicist at the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow, 1948–51. He then moved to the US and held positions at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital and the Swedish Hospital, Seattle, before accepting a post in the radiology department of the University of Washington in 1964. His research interests, in the area of applications of radiation physics in medicine, include dosimetry of all types of ionizing radiations and fast-neutron therapy.

New graduate students being redistributed

A geographic redistribution of first-year graduate enrollments at physics PhD-granting institutions is predicted for the fall in a recent survey conducted by the Manpower Statistics Division of the American Institute of Physics. The eastern and north-central regions anticipate a decline while the southwestern, mountain and Pacific regions anticipate a corresponding increase in first-year graduate students. No overall decline was indicated—those first-year graduate enrollments that started to level-off at 2200 students in 1972 will continue to do so, it is expected.

Copies of this survey are available from Susanne Ellis, AIP Manpower Statistics Division, 335 East 45th St, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Bernstein wins science-writing award again

Jeremy Bernstein, professor of physics at the Stevens Institute of Technology, has been named the 1976 winner of the American Institute of Physics–United States Steel Foundation Science-Writing Award in Physics and Astronomy. This is the second time Bernstein has received the award—in 1970 he was honored for his booklet *The Elusive Neutrino*, which was published by the Atomic Energy Commission and distributed to high-school students.

This year's prize was given to Bernstein

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for his two-part article "Physicist: I.I. Rabi," which appeared in *The New Yorker* on 13 and 20 October 1975. His other published works include "The Analytical Engine: Computers, Past, Present and Future," "A Comprehensible World" and "Einstein."

He received his doctorate in physics from Harvard University in 1955 and then worked for the Harvard Cyclotron Laboratory (1955–57), the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton (1957–59) and Brookhaven National Laboratory (1960–62). Bernstein was a faculty member at New York University for five years before accepting his current position at Stevens Institute of Technology in 1967.

The award, along with $1500 and a moebius-strip trophy, will be presented to Bernstein in November at the annual meeting of the American Institute of Physics Corporate Associates. □