

To sum up; I have touched on the great perils of nuclear war, population growth, and political instability; early mechanisms for addressing some of these; the abolition of these mechanisms in a terrible period of our history in 1973; and looking to the future, these perils and worse. Means are available to help solve these problems, but they have been largely ignored. I hope the new Administration will consider involving scientists part time as a Science Advisory Committee at the level of Presidential policy formulation, thus to mobilize the best talents of scientists and engineers in the formulation of policy, as well as to realize the benefit of having outsiders as a partial safeguard of integrity in government.

RICHARD L. GARWIN

IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center
Yorktown Heights, New York

* * *

Excerpted with revision from the author's response on receipt of the Leo Szilard Award presented by the Forum on Physics and Society of The American Physical Society on 27 April 1976.

Equal status

As employees of the American Institute of Physics, we were interested to read the letter from Alvin Radkowsky in the June issue (page 77). Contrary to the position expressed in the letter we believe that the AIP's move to end discrimination against women by changing the term "chairman" to "chairperson" was a necessary one. We believe that language reflects the attitudes of a society—in this case the attitude that women's identity is absorbed in that of men.

Radkowsky's lighthearted response to the AIP's word change expresses contempt for the very serious and important movement of women for equal status with men.

SUSAN R. GORDON
ROSALYN DEUTSCHE
DAVID HATHWELL
CARLOS ESPINOSA

American Institute of Physics
New York, New York

6/4/76

Soviet contradiction

Recently, while serving as an intern with the Committee on Science and Technology in the US House of Representatives, I, along with a number of interns, visited the Soviet Embassy in Washington, DC. After some introductory remarks by Vladimir Belyakov, a Soviet Embassy Information Officer, concerning the present relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union, there was a brief question and answer session. I used this opportunity to inquire about the

Soviet treatment of Jewish physicists in Russia who have requested permission to emigrate to Israel, and was informed that these physicists are not denied immigration visas to Israel. He stated, nevertheless, that the Soviet Union discourages immigration because previous experience has shown that many immigrants wish to return after a short period of time and re-employment then becomes a difficult problem. I was unable to ask how many Jewish Russian physicists have been allowed to emigrate or have requested to return to the Soviet Union. When Belyakov stated that a check with the United Nations would confirm that 20 000 people are allowed to emigrate from Russia in 1974, I inquired as to the number of people who had applied to emigrate. Belyakov chose not to answer this, however, to move on to other areas of interest.

The statements made by Belyakov seem to contradict many of the letters recently published in *PHYSICS TODAY* (July 1975; January, 1976; February, 1976; and March, 1976) concerning the plight of Russian physicists.

The purpose of this letter is to encourage scientists to respond to the various appeals made on behalf of Russian physicists who have attempted to emigrate from the Soviet Union and as a result have received constant harassment from Soviet officials. A short letter to the appropriate parties stating displeasure over such deplorable treatment of our Soviet colleagues may be an effective means of maintaining scientific freedom.

D. WAYNE COOKE

The University of Alabama
University, Alabama

8/2/76

Unpublished results

Over the past few years, I have written to authors of scientific papers, requesting details of various materials they had referenced in their papers as "unpublished results." Out of more than a dozen such requests, only one author even bothered to reply, let alone send the information I had requested. I think that the scientific journals should follow one of the two policies with regard to references of this sort in the papers they print:

- ▶ prohibit all such references
- ▶ permit the referencing of unpublished work with the understanding that this material will be available to people requesting it.

I can understand and sympathize with the referencing of unpublished results, and therefore favor the adoption of the second policy; but I do not think that authors should be permitted to reference work they are unwilling to release to their fellow scientists. This also applies to "private communications." Another category is that of "paper in preparation." In this case, an area of research is essen-

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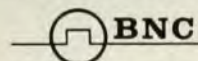
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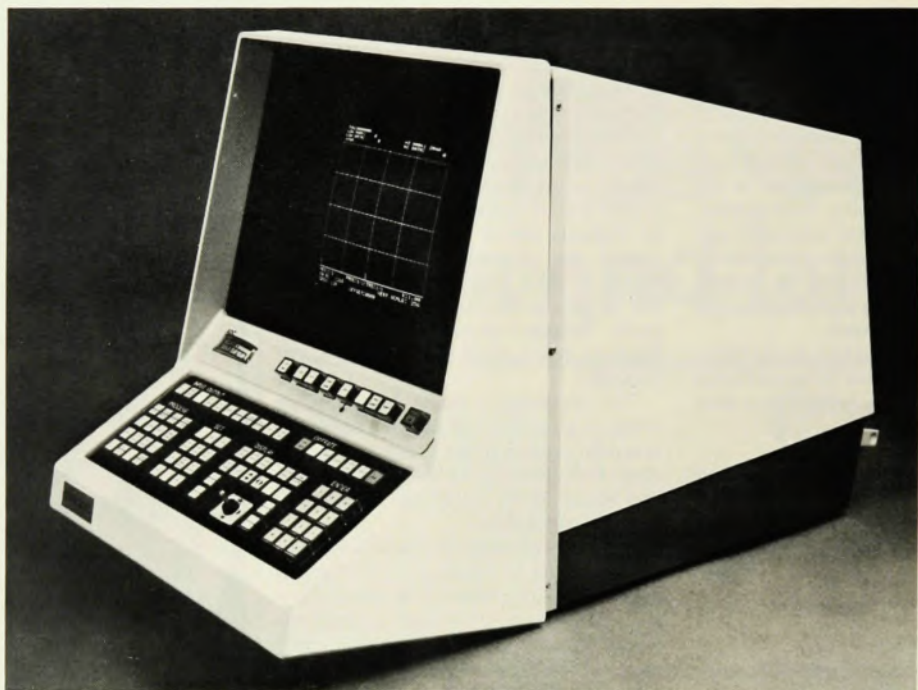
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letters

tially being "staked out" by the author. This can deter others from entering the field, since there is the possibility of duplication of work. This procedure can be useful if it is not abused, and it should be understood that material referenced in this way will be submitted for publication within a reasonable amount of time.

I don't mean to imply that any of the above referencing techniques are used, as a rule, in an improper way by researchers but I am urging that the flow of scientific information be unhampered by the use of references in scientific publications to material that is unavailable to others.

RICHARD J. GAYLORD

University of Illinois

Urbana-Champaign, Ill.

6/23/76

Another scientist in Congress

In your otherwise accurate article on scientist-candidates for Congress in the October issue (page 63) you omitted one scientist candidate for reelection, Joseph Fisher (10th District of Virginia), who has, in his first term, and undoubtedly will continue due to his reelection, to leave a major impact on policy issues of interest to scientists, mostly notably energy, the environment, and the economy.

A Harvard PhD economist, Fisher served on the staff of the Council of Economic Advisors before beginning a 15-year period as President of Resources for the Future. Under his leadership RFF became perhaps the leading nonprofit research organization specializing in analysis of resources, environmental and energy issues. RFF research has gained an estimable reputation for quality and credibility both in the academic world and in government.

During his freshman term in Congress Fisher played a key role in the energy-policy area as an exceedingly effective member of the pivotal House Ways and Means Committee.

I hope that PHYSICS TODAY recognize this outstanding economist-in-Congress as a scientist fully on a par with those whose training has been more oriented toward the physical sciences.

JOEL A. SNOW

McLean, Virginia

11/9/76

Waste info needed

This letter is addressed to scientists and engineers working on radioactive waste disposal.

A panel established by the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management of the National Research Council has been assigned the task of evaluating waste practices at the Hanford Reservation in Washington. Such practices include the partial solidification by evaporation of

huge quantities of high-level liquid waste remaining from plutonium production, the separation of radioactive nuclides from the liquid wastes, the discharge of low-level liquid waste to the ground, the trapping of gaseous and particulate waste, and the recovery for safer storage of soil into which waste containing actinide elements had previously been discharged.

The panel is seeking information from all possible sources to guide its study. In particular, reports on recent work dealing with ideas or technological innovations that might be applicable to Hanford practices would be helpful. Many reports of this sort have been published and are readily available, but some may exist in unpublished form. The panel would appreciate knowing about unpublished work, and requests that reports describing it be sent to

Dr John Pomeroy, Executive Secretary

Committee on Radioactive Waste Management

NAS-NRC

2101 Constitution Avenue

Washington, D.C. 20418

KONRAD B. KRAUSKOPF

Chairman, Panel on Hanford Wastes

Stanford University

Stanford, California

8/11/76

Argentinian physicists

In the last few months, we have seen many Argentinian scientists passing through or trying to settle in our country. For this reason we have become acquainted with various aspects of the plight of Argentinian physicists, and perhaps it is of some interest to your readers to know the following facts that we have been able to collect. A nominal list now exists of some sixty physicists, or engineers working in physics, fired from various National Agencies or from Universities in La Plata, Rosario, Cordoba, Tucuman. More serious, however, is the fate of our colleagues—an incomplete list of which is given below (to my knowledge only the first-named has been mentioned so far in your columns).

University of Cordoba: Institute of Mathematics, Astronomy and Physics

► Dr Juan Carlos Gallardo: incommunicado in Cordoba since 4 March 1976. (See PHYSICS TODAY, June 1976).

► Dr Gabriela Carabelli: arrested by plainclothes policemen together with her daughter in February 1976. No news since then.

University of Rosario: Department of Physics

► Miss Julia Huarque: arrested on 3 June 1976. No news since.

► Professor Eduardo Pasquini: arrested together with his spouse Liliane Misraijchi, a psychoanalyst, 10 June 1976. No

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