

## letters

next year hire a recent graduate for \$10,000. In the first year of such programs the Board of Education breaks even. And in the second year, after a generous raise given to the newly acquired teacher, the Board pays only half of the previous salary.

Feldman's theory does not jibe with experiment. I have taught very young children physics—which they can and do learn at 12 and 13 with interest and appreciation—for twelve years and I find no evidence to support Feldman's view. Physicists are not taught to teach and teachers are not taught physics. Why do we expect more than 18% of our students to study physics after studying biology for 5 years? You do not believe that the general-science teachers are teaching fundamentals of physical measurement and analysis? After five years of descriptive life sciences taught by good biologists, who would understand physics enough to take an admittedly difficult course of study? Those 18% would not be there if they were not strongly advised to do so.

Come down out of the tower please. We are not going to develop an interest in physics until we train teachers and begin teaching physics to children. Waiting until they are adults is too late!

DON GRANT

Isaac Young School  
New Rochelle, New York

6/6/80

## Unification Church

The AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility has taken note of the Eighth International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences, sponsored and financed by the International Cultural Foundation, which took place in Los Angeles in November 1979. The founder, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Cultural Foundation, is Sun Myung Moon. Moon is also the founder and promoter of the Unification Church, some of the practices of which have received adverse criticism on a number of grounds. From evidence supplied to us in numerous newspaper reports, regarding earlier conferences on the Unity of the Sciences, we concluded that the prestige of the scientists attending the conferences has been used on occasion by Moon and his associates to promote the advancement of the Unification Church. The participants may be unaware of the publicity resulting from their participation in the conference. Under these circumstances I authorized the issuance of the following statement before the conference on behalf of our Committee:

Scientists who are invited to participate in the Eighth International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences should be aware that it is sponsored and financed by the International Cultural Foundation whose founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors is the Reverend Sun Myung Moon. Participating scientists will be unavoidably associated with the practices of Moon's Unification Church which have received repeated adverse criticism on a number of grounds. Publicity respecting preceding conferences has been used in recruiting and in indoctrinating new members into the Unification Church according to reports which have reached us.

Bentley Glass, my predecessor as chairman of our committee, had authorized the issuance of an almost identical statement before the Seventh Conference on the Unity of the Sciences in Boston in 1978. We had, of course, no intention of interfering with the freedom of scientists who chose to attend these conferences; we simply wished to point out possible implications of attendance, of which they may have been unaware.

JOHN T. EDSALL, CHAIRMAN,  
*Committee on Scientific Freedom and  
Responsibility.*

1/25/80      *American Association for the  
Advancement of Science*

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT RESPONDS: It is good if the objections to the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences (organized by the International Cultural Foundation) are brought to public attention. It is, however, good also if it is pointed out that the conferences are truly interesting, well attended by scientists deeply interested in a harmony between the different sciences and in the basic ideas of all sciences. Actually, I first participated in one of the International Conferences on the Unity of the Sciences because I found the report of their London Conference truly impressive. I appreciate, therefore, that the editor has asked me to comment on John Edsall's letter.

As to the influence of the Unification Church, it surely does not exist as far as the conference itself is concerned. Every participant offers his view freely and without any restraint. And this writer, at least, could not discover any sign that the existence of the conferences is used to attract new members to the church. He did receive many letters sharply criticizing his participation in the conferences and got into contact with the majority of the letter writers. He found their majority to be far leftists who resented the heavily anti-communist attitude of the church. But none produced any evidence that the participation in the

*continued on page 88*

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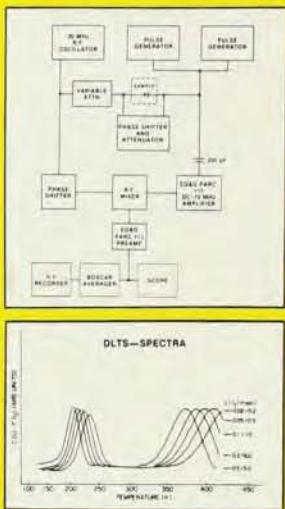


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## letters

*continued from page 15*

conference was misused by the church. Incidentally, I discussed the attitudes of the Unification Church with some members of the Princeton Theological Seminary and they, on the whole, approved of it—surely did not offer any serious criticism thereof. Nor can I point to any. May I mention that I did participate also in conferences organized by the opposite political extreme, by communist governments and, luckily, was never reproached for that. (Of course, I am neither a communist nor a member of, or involved with, the Unification Church.)

E. P. WIGNER  
Princeton University

## Physics department data

I wish to suggest the collection and annual publication of basic information about the conditions of employment for teachers and researchers in physics in institutions of higher education. The purpose is to provide a complete survey for the US of the comparative conditions under which physicists work. Data recommended for collection in regard to teaching conditions should include: beginning salaries at each rank (instructor, assistant professor, and so on), number of faculty in physics at each rank, total number of students taking physics department courses, total number of physics majors in the given year (if any), percent change in number of physics majors since last year, departmental teaching equipment budget, department salary budget, average number of months between requesting equipment or supplies and receipt of same (both on contract and on open market), number of physics departments within a 25-mile radius, existence of requirement to publish research in order to teach, existence of faculty union, existence of required loyalty oath, and other factors to be suggested.

Initially, the survey could cover 2-year, 4-year, and MS-granting institutions (not necessarily with a physics major) that are state-supported. Many of the above factors would be uniform over a state and therefore the information could be summarized by state. The benefits of having this information available seem obvious for both prospective and actual physics faculty. Collecting the data might be easiest from the department chairman or one AIP member in each department. Physics faculty at a school with "favorable" data on most of the above factors would find it beneficial to have their position known to all other members of the physics community. Faculty at insti-

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