

A dedication for AIP

As of midnight, 31 October 1980, the American Institute of Physics—for the first time in over 20 years—had all of its activities under its own roof; on 1 November the new AIP publishing center in Woodbury, Long Island was dedicated and it, together with the newly renovated headquarters building in Manhattan, now house all the Institute activities.

Malthus long ago focussed on the first dilemma faced by humankind: Our planet's resources are limited. Physics and physicists have, and will, make central contributions to the resolution of this dilemma through their efforts to ensure a continuing and abundant energy supply and through recognition that energy is the ultimate resource—that with energy we can always have pure water, adequate and attractive food, reclaimed metals and all the other hallmarks of our civilization. But the second Malthusian dilemma—that Man's ability to absorb and cope with information is also limited—is also upon us. Here too, physics and physicists have much to contribute and the AIP plays a unique role.

Publisher of 90% of the US journal literature in physics, AIP also provides a vital link to other parts of this literature that would otherwise be largely unavailable. Nineteen Soviet journals are now translated regularly, and a new quarterly *Chinese Physics* gleaned from Chinese publications in physics and astronomy will appear during the coming year.

Serving nine Member, and 15 Affiliated, Societies in this country, AIP now publishes over 100 000 pages per year (an increase of about 100% in the past 15 years) and serves almost 300 000 subscribers, one quarter of whom are foreign. In addition to these publication activities, AIP is one of the world centers for physics information, and through its Center for the History of Physics it has already collected a treasure trove of documents, letters and taped interviews involving many of the world's most distinguished physicists—first-hand insight into the wellspring of our science, much of which would otherwise have been lost forever.

The burgeoning number of more popular scientific journals that have recently appeared in this country provides a measure of the public hunger for scientific information. Underlying these,

however, are the refereed, scholarly, archival journals typical of the AIP. Although the specific forms will almost certainly change, and AIP is a leader in such changes, these archival journals and records are essential to progress in physics and to public understanding of it. And beyond that, as the distinction between the curricula and research activities in engineering, chemistry and astronomy and those in physics continue to blur and as the physics underlying *all* of the sciences continues to emerge, our journals and our abstracting and information-retrieval systems are increasingly essential to a large and rapidly growing sector of the world's scientific and technical community.

The Institute plays a much broader role in this information area. Through collection and analysis of data *about* physics and physicists it gives us perspective concerning our own field. Through its public services it provides both information *of* physics and *about* physics to the US public and to the world. During 1979 it has expanded its very successful Science Report, now regularly broadcast by 250 US radio stations, to an initial TV series, Science TV News, now distributed to 100 selected local TV stations. And through its Corporate Associates program and the Society of Physics Students it continues to build bridges of understanding and service to two very important constituencies.

The consolidation of AIP activities, celebrated on 1 November, was a particularly opportune time for me to extend to AIP, to H. William Koch, its Director, and to all his staff—on behalf of the 140 000 members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and its 300 scientific and technological societies—warmest congratulations and best wishes. All of us, as the unity of sciences continues to unfold, will have increasing occasion to rely on AIP's dedication to disseminating information of and about physics and to the vital role that it plays in all of our activities.

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American Association for the Advancement of Science