

ciency" were sacrificed to "quantity, mediocrity and general muddling" by the social legislation of the 1960s and 1970s.

Several other speakers recommended expanding training programs for women and minorities. John B. Slaughter, who recently announced his resignation as NSF director, pointed out that during the next 20 years the recent fall in the birth rate will entail a 25% reduction in the number of young people entering the job market. To offset this shortage and to supply a growing demand for trained personnel, a greater participation of minorities and women will be needed. Sheila M. Pfafflin, a district manager of AT&T, emphasized that women and members of racial minority groups comprise a substantial majority of young people. Any effort to expand the trained labor force must include them, she said.

Disputing the view of the Reagan administration, Robert B. Sigda said that local communities cannot come up with the funds needed to reverse current trends in precollege education. An earth science teacher and the president-elect of the National Science Teachers Association, he commented, "The recent suggestions by some that all the funding for science education must come from the local level is totally unrealistic to science teachers, who, for many years, have been trying to obtain money from these sources. Anyone familiar with the problems and pressures on local school boards know that little, if any, funding will come from this source. There has been a fiction that a massive Federal support has been present over the years," Sigda told us. "The fact is, Federal support for pre-college science education has declined steadily and drastically for the past 22 years."

Gerard Piel (publisher of *Scientific American*) disagreed with the Reagan administration idea that Federal funding would interfere with local initiative. He said programs of the 1950s originated locally in universities but received Federal funds, a relation he feels ought to be repeated.

**Small bright light.** Collaborations between schools and industry, particularly high-technology companies, offer some encouragement. Computer-based instructional programs developed jointly by industry and schools have been applied in many cities. The PLATO system (developed with funds from NSF), for example, is being used to teach disadvantaged children in basic skills, to enrich mainstream programs in math and science and to provide training in computer literacy and high-technology vocations.

The Houston public school system has introduced measures to improve science instruction with help from

large corporations: joint appointments in industry and schools for teachers, establishment of schools specializing in science and math, and incentive pay rewards for teachers instructing in subjects in which there are shortages of teachers and in inner-city regions.

Although the Reagan administration refuses money, it was willing to provide recommendations. Bell suggested 18 measures that local school boards and states might implement: paying math and science teachers more than their colleagues, increasing math and science requirements for high-school graduation and for university admission, establishing more high schools along the lines of Bronx (New York) High School of Science, encouraging corporations to pay for expanded laboratory equipment, and so on.

Another measure Reagan and Bell cited was the newly created National Science Board Commission of Precollege Education in Mathematics, Science, and Technology, under the leadership of William T. Coleman, former Secretary of Transportation, and Cecily Cannan Selby, a physicist and a chairperson of the board of advisers of the North Carolina School of Science and Technology, a residential high

school. The Commission—whose 20 members also include physicist General Lew Allen Jr, Chief of Staff of the US Air Force—is to meet approximately ten times during the next year and a half to "define a national agenda for improving mathematics and science education in this country. It will develop an action plan that will include a definition of the appropriate roles of Federal, state and local governments, professional and scientific societies, and the private sector in addressing this problem..." The Commission, according to Sarah Klein, president of the National Science Teachers Association, "would duplicate studies already undertaken, but largely ignored [for which] the NSF spent upwards of \$3 million over the last five years." Any recommendations the Commission makes, which will not occur until late 1983, will have no chance of receiving funding until 1985, according to a recent statement by F. James Rutherford, chief education officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Where the money for needed programs will come from is "a serious question the country must address," according to Press. —DG

## the physics community

### Acoustical Society elects Fisher and Galloway

The membership of the Acoustical Society of America has elected Frederick H. Fisher president-elect and William J. Galloway vice-president-elect for 1982-83. They will succeed current president David T. Blackstock (University of Texas) and vice-president Alan Powell (David W. Taylor Naval Ship R&D Center) in the spring of 1983.

Fisher attended the US Naval Academy (1945-47) and graduated from the University of Washington: BS in 1949,

PhD in physics in 1957. Since 1955 he has worked at the Marine Physical Laboratory of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California. He was assistant, then from 1962, associate research physicist. In 1968 he became research oceanographer. Since 1975 he has also been associate director. He worked on reverse osmosis desalination of sea water as director of research at Havens Industries from 1963 to 1964 and as professor and chairman, department of physics, at the University of Rhode Island from 1970 to 1971.

Fisher has served the ASA as vice-president 1980-81, as member of its executive council 1976-79. He has worked on committees on physical acoustics and underwater acoustics and as an associate editor of the *Journal*.

Galloway earned BS (1949), MS (1950) and PhD (physics, 1953) degrees from the University of California at Los Angeles. Since 1953 he has been vice-president and principal consultant at Bolt Beranek & Newman. He has also been standards director of the ASA since 1979 and served on its noise and standards committees.

At the same time, Juergen Tonndorf (Columbia University) and Josef F. Zwislöck (Syracuse University) were elected to the ASA executive council. □

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