

gets for academic research.

In a report last December, Nicholson's office indicated that of the five most industrialized nations, Britain was at the bottom of the league in nondefense R&D funded by the government. What's more, British industry contributes a smaller proportion of research money than industry does in the other nations—42% in 1983, compared with 49% in the US, 58% in West Germany and 64% in Japan.

'Brain drain.' Nicholson is known to have welcomed Britain's participation in the research program for the Strategic Defense Initiative as the best way of attracting US funds for his country's scientists and engineers. The decision to sign on to SDI came after the Advisory Board for the British Research Councils sounded the tocsin once more that basic science in Britain is in danger of collapse, with increasing

numbers of scientists emigrating overseas for better pay, newer equipment and greater flexibility in setting their research agendas. In its report, based on a survey of 40 research organizations, the Advisory Board warned of an imminent "brain drain" similar to the emigration of scientific and technical talent to the US and Canada that reached crisis proportions in the 1950s and 1960s.

A metallurgist, Nicholson taught the subject at Cambridge and Manchester universities before becoming the first director of Inco Europe Ltd's research laboratory at Birmingham in 1972. In 1979 he also took on cochairmanship of Inco's partly owned biotechnology company, Biogen NV. He is a fellow of the Royal Society and a foreign associate of the US National Academy of Engineering. —IRWIN GOODWIN

AAPT elects Resnick vice-president

Robert Resnick of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute has been elected vice-president of the American Association of Physics Teachers for 1986. He succeeds Donald F. Holcomb of Cornell, who is 1986 president-elect. Robert Beck Clark of Texas A&M University is this year's AAPT president.

Resnick received his BA in 1943 and his PhD in 1949 from Johns Hopkins University. He worked with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics from 1944 to 1946 and taught at the University of Pittsburgh from 1949 to 1956. He has been at Rensselaer since 1956, where he is professor of physics and Edward P. Hamilton Distinguished Professor of Science Education. He has been chairman of RPI's interdisciplinary science curriculum since 1973. He was principal

investigator in the recent APS-AAPT survey of physics-department chairmen (see page 65). Resnick is a fellow of APS and AAAS, and he was honored with AAPT's Oersted Medal in 1974. He is the author or coauthor of seven textbooks, including, with David Halliday, *Physics*, which has been translated into 41 languages.

As an officer of AAPT, Resnick hopes to find support for more educational research on the teaching of physics at the college level, find ways of making modern physics more accessible to introductory physics students, initiate cooperative programs with other professional societies and "strive to increase significantly the number of women and members of minorities in physics."

Karen L. Johnston of North Carolina State University has been elected a member of the AAPT executive board. She received a BA in 1971 and an MS in 1974 from Sam Houston State University. She received a PhD from the University of Texas, Austin, in 1979. Johnston taught at Conroe High School in Conroe, Texas, in 1971-72, at Brazosport Community College in 1974-77, and at Memphis State University in 1979-82.

AIP history center wins award from archivists' society

The AIP Center for History of Physics has been honored with the Distinguished Service Award of the Society of American Archivists. Joan Warnow, associate director of the AIP physics-history division, accepted the award on

behalf of AIP at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists last fall in Austin, Texas. John A. Wheeler, an early leader in efforts to document modern physics, was her escort at the ceremony.

The AIP Center for History of Physics is the 13th institution to be honored with the archivists' award since 1964. All the other Distinguished Service Awards have gone to state or city archives except for one, which went to a public university. The Center for History of Physics is the first archives connected with a group of professional societies representing an intellectual discipline to be honored with the award, and it is the first archives to be honored that is not mainly a repository for documents.

AIP's physics-history program was started in the early 1960s with three main projects: to assemble and manage the Niels Bohr Library at AIP headquarters, to collect oral histories on tape and to advise other institutions and individual physicists on saving documents. The history center recently completed a large project that involved providing advice to DOE-funded laboratories on how to preserve their historical records.

The Society of American Archivists, in its citation honoring the Center for History of Physics, said that the center "has shown that it is possible to document fields that previously seemed beyond our ken because of their mystery and complexity, the volume of records or the excess of minutiae.... [The center's work] has had widespread influence in the archival profession, showing itself applicable to other disciplines and records. The center serves as the repository for records of AIP and its member societies, but perhaps more importantly educates, encourages and assists many and varied repositories across the nation in preserving the history of science."

The directors of the Center for History of Physics have been W. James King (1961-64), Charles Weiner (1964-74) and Spencer Weart (since 1974). Warnow has been with the center since 1965 and is responsible for most of its archival work.

Hecker succeeds Kerr as head of Los Alamos Laboratory

Siegfried S. Hecker took over in January as head of Los Alamos National Laboratory, replacing Donald M. Kerr Jr, who resigned last October after serving six years as director. Hecker previously was chairman of the Los Alamos Center for Materials Science, and before that he headed the laboratory's materials-science and technology

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