

Committee on Minorities makes film, starts newsletter

On 28 October 1985, at the request of then-President Robert R. Wilson, the APS Committee on Minorities in Physics held a meeting with representatives from industry, universities and national laboratories to discuss the special problems of minorities in physics and to propose solutions that the Society might help to implement. In discussing ways to recruit more minorities into the profession, participants in the meeting recognized that the APS Minority Scholarship Program (PHYSICS TODAY, January, page 103) makes an important contribution and they described programs at their own institutions that could be adopted elsewhere.

Participants at the meeting were shown a videotape of a short recruiting film recently commissioned by the minorities committee. Directed at black and Hispanic high-school students, the film highlights the attractiveness of studying physics and shows that physics can be a viable career for black and Hispanic women and men. The committee is seeking ways to distribute this film.

The committee is also starting a newsletter to inform minority physics students of opportunities. Information for this newsletter should be sent to Carl O. Clark, Chairman, Department of Physics, South Carolina State College, Orangeburg, SC 29117.

For many complex reasons, black and Hispanic Americans are conspicuously underrepresented in physics. In 1983, out of close to 1000 physics PhDs granted in the United States, 8 were obtained by black Americans and 2 by Hispanic Americans. Several participants at the meeting made the point that making physics more accessible to minority students is desirable not only for the sake of correcting social inequities but also to help alleviate manpower shortages predicted for physics.

Industry was represented at the meeting by Bruce Gibson (Eastman Kodak, Rochester), Clark Grain (Arthur D. Little), Timothy Henderson (KMS Fusion), Paul Liao (Bell Communications Research) and Richard L. Woodin (Exxon); national laboratories by Juanita Bronaugh-Thomas (Argonne National Laboratory), Bruce L. Chrisman (Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory), Lee D'Anna (Los Alamos

National Laboratory), Walter D. Hartsough (Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory) and Donald Metz (Brookhaven National Laboratory); and universities by Edwin L. Goldwasser (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), Joseph A. Johnson III (The City College of the City University of New York) and Stephen C. McGuire (Alabama A&M).

APS was represented by President Wilson, Joseph Burton (Treasurer Emeritus and former APS Liaison to

the Committee), Harry Lustig (Treasurer), Edith Rees (Coordinator for Special Programs) and the members of the Committee on Minorities in Physics: J. D. Garcia Jr, Chairman (University of Arizona); Carl O. Clark (South Carolina State College); W. Eugene Collins (Southern University, Baton Rouge); James C. Davenport (Virginia State University); Wilhelmina D. Jenkins (Lincoln University); and Herman B. White Jr (Fermilab).

APS expresses thanks to Joseph A. Burton



On the evening of 2 November 1985 a gala party was held at the Town and Country Inn in San Diego to commemorate the retirement, on 1 October 1985, of Joseph A. Burton as Treasurer of The American Physical Society. Burton had served in this position for the previous 17 years, not only nurturing and safeguarding the assets of the Society, but also, in his "part-time" job (usually only a bit less than 60 hours per week!), taking a major role in many other concerns of APS. During Burton's tenure as Treasurer, the Society's net assets increased by a factor of about 100.

The hosts for the party were the APS 1985 President Robert R. Wilson and his wife, Jane. The attendees included several past and future presidents: George Pake, William A. Fowler, Mildred Dresselhaus, Sidney Drell and Val Fitch. Most of

the other guests were members of the APS Executive Committee and Council.

The only "formalities" occurred well after all the wines were poured and consumed, when President Wilson presented a commemorative plaque from APS to Burton and Venkatesh Narayanamurti gave him a framed bit of memorabilia from Burton's earlier days as Director of the Physical Research Laboratory at Bell Labs. (In the photograph, Burton is on the right and Wilson is on the left.) Words of praise were offered by former presidents Fowler, Pake and Dresselhaus—nothing so formal as to dispel the splendid time everyone, including Joe Burton and his wife, Denison, was having at the party.

—DAVID M. LAZARUS
APS Editor-in-Chief