

stubborn non-respondents.

Even then, the pollsters had obtained a response rate of only 62%, even though they were shooting for 75% and considered two-thirds the minimum acceptable. And so at that point they tracked down non-respondents by telephone, and by persuading some hold-outs to fill out the questionnaires and send them in, they boosted the response rate to 74%.

Many of those who did not respond turned out to be deceased or out of the country and inaccessible, and some disqualified themselves on the ground that they no longer were intimately in touch with science research and no longer considered themselves true members of the scientific community. But 59 refused to participate, expressing disdain for social science research in general or disdain for the survey instrument in particular. McGinnis takes satisfaction from the fact that those expressing disdain for the survey instrument were evenly divided between those who considered it blatantly pro-SDI and those who considered it blatantly anti-SDI.

—WILLIAM SWEET

Nominations urgently sought for Gemant Award

Nominations are sought for the first annual Andrew Gemant Award, which will be made by the AIP Governing Board at its March 1987 meeting. The award will recognize the accomplishments of a person who has made significant contributions to understanding the relationship of physics to the surrounding culture and to the communication of that understanding.

Nominations for the 1987 Gemant Award may be made to any member of the award committee: Donald Holcomb of Cornell University (chairman), Bernard F. Burke of MIT and David Lazarus of the University of Illinois.

The career of the awardee must be judged "very strong" in at least one of the following areas:

- Creative work in the arts and humanities that derived from a deep knowledge of and love for physics
- The interpretation of physics to the public through such means as mass media presentations or public lectures
- The enlightenment of physicists and the public regarding the history of physics or other cultural aspects of physics
- The clear communication of physics to students who are learning physics as part of their general education.

The awardee will receive a certificate and a cash award. In addition, the recipient will be invited to deliver a

lecture to a meeting that focuses on the interdisciplinary aspects of physics and will select an academic department for receipt of a special AIP grant, which can be used to fund either a graduate fellowship or a public lecture series.

Policy for the Gemant Award was adopted by the AIP Governing Board at its October meeting. The board also adopted a policy for the newly established Meggers Award. Both awards honor noted physicists and are endowed by bequests they left to the American Institute of Physics.

Gemant, a native of Hungary, was an industrial physicist and author of numerous scientific papers who also played classical piano proficiently, read widely in the literature of several languages and wrote novels and short stories.

Gemant's interest in AIP arose from a solicitation the institute's history division sent him in the 1960s, when members of the division decided to assemble biographical information on physicists working in industry. A lengthy correspondence ensued between Gemant and Joan Warnow of the history division. After Gemant's wife died, he made AIP the beneficiary of his will, and when he died in 1983, the net value of his estate turned out to be about \$150 000. Gemant had specified that he wanted the estate to endow some kind of award in his name.

William F. Meggers, a spectroscopist who spent his entire career at the National Bureau of Standards, was an avid collector of stamps and coins and decided in the 1960s to donate his collections to AIP to further physics education. In a letter he wrote on 30 November 1965, Meggers said: "When I attended high school in 1902, everyone was required to study physics; our only elective was a foreign language. Since then, physics became an elective and enrollments for its study have steadily declined. . . . In my opinion, it is not enough to 'help check the continuing drop'; it is absolutely necessary to reverse the trend."

When Meggers gave the collections to AIP, the value of the coins was estimated at around \$40 000. AIP kept the collection in safe deposit boxes for 20 years, and in May 1985 it was auctioned by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries in New York, yielding a net return to AIP of more than a half million dollars.

Meggers Award. The Governing Board's policy statement on the Meggers bequest provides for the establishment of two awards:

- The Meggers Project Award, given to the winner of a biennial competition open to the physics community for projects whose goals are consistent

with the Meggers gift

- The Meggers/AIP Educational Programs Branch Research and Development Award, for the purpose of providing the basis for special projects, consistent with the Meggers gift, to be carried out by AIP alone or in conjunction with one or more of the member societies or other organizations.

A committee is to be established to make nominations for the biennial project award. The AIP Committee on Educational Policy will recommend selection criteria and make awards for the education research and development award.

Annual income from the Meggers endowment is expected to be about \$55 000, while income from the Gemant bequest should be around \$15 000. The amounts to be awarded will be determined by the Governing Board after considering what it will cost to administer the awards and to protect their value against inflation.

Kogelnik is elected 1987 vice president of OSA

Herwig Kogelnik, director of AT&T Bell Laboratories in Holmdel, New Jersey, has been selected as 1987 vice president of the Optical Society of America. Kogelnik will become president-elect of OSA in 1988 and president in 1989. The 1986 president is Robert G. Greenler of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and the president-elect is William B. Bridges of Caltech.

In other election results, OSA members elected three directors-at-large to serve two-year terms: Robert L. Byer of the applied physics department at Stanford University; H. Angus Macleod of the Optical Sciences Center, University of Arizona; and Duncan T. Moore of the Institute of Optics, University of Rochester.

A native of Austria, Kogelnik earned

KOGELNIK

