AIP Development Program

THE American Institute of Physics has announced plans for a $500 000 Development Program calculated to improve and make better use of the Institute's facilities and its capacity to serve its members. Half of the total amount will be used to meet the expenses of renovating and moving into a newly-purchased AIP headquarters building. An additional $200 000 will be required to defray the initial costs of an impending publications increase of some 5000 journal pages devoted to fundamental and applied research in physics. The remaining $50 000 will be used to establish a program to stimulate and coordinate efforts to encourage the study of physics in the nation's schools. A fund-raising drive is in the process of being launched, and it is hoped that $350 000 of the total will be provided by industrial employers of physicists and that the remaining $150 000 will be contributed by individual members of the Institute.

The Executive Committee of the AIP Governing Board has appointed Paul E. Klopsteg, chairman of the Board from 1940 to 1947, as chairman of the AIP Development Fund Committee. Working with him will be a group of outstanding physicists, educators, and industrial leaders. Dr. Klopsteg, a physicist whose career has included service in industry, government, and education, is professor emeritus of applied science at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., and is a former president of the Central Scientific Company of Chicago. Prior to his retirement at the end of 1954 he was associate director of the National Science Foundation, and he continues to serve in that capacity on a part-time basis.

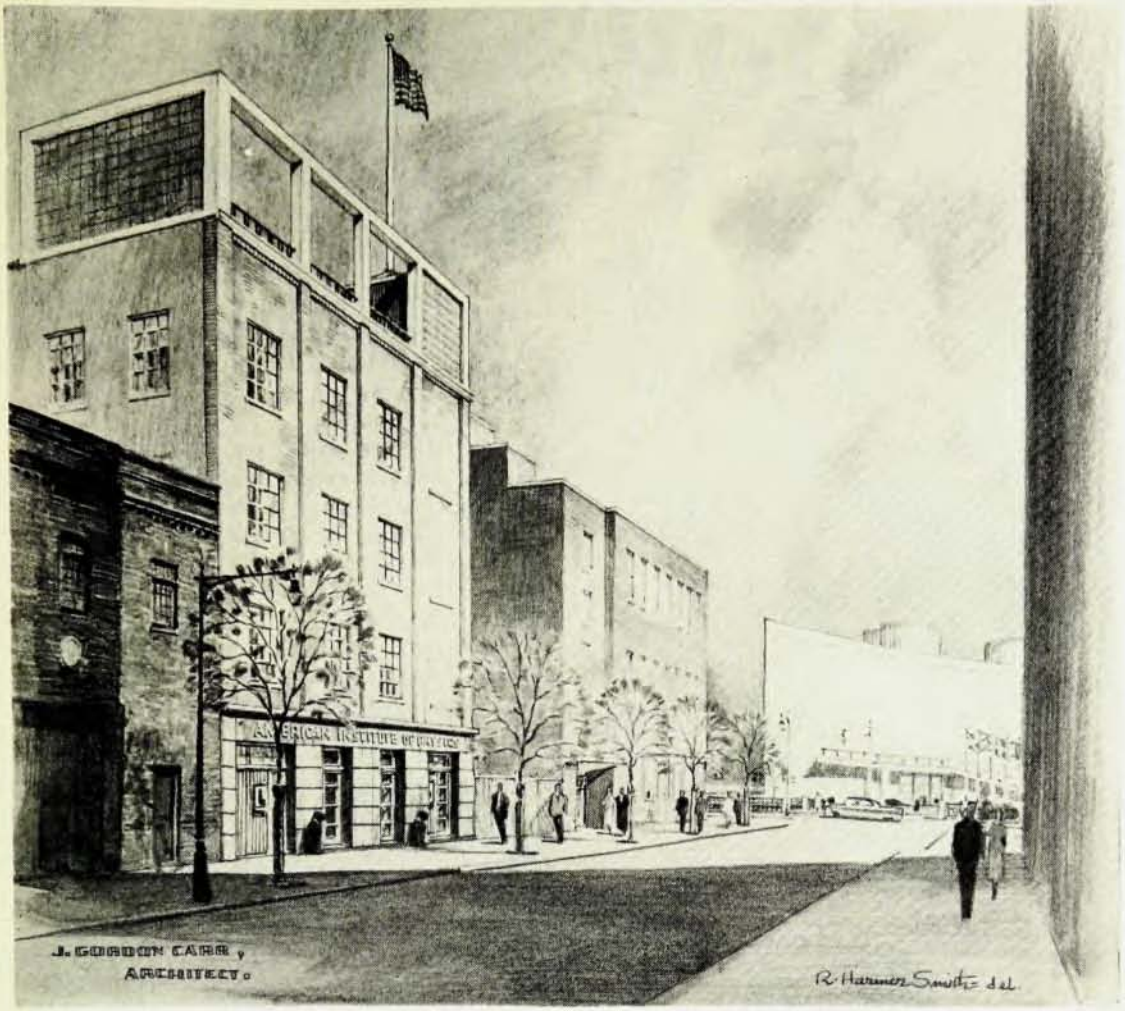
Paul E. Klopsteg, who has been appointed as chairman of the recently established Development Fund Committee of the American Institute of Physics.

Since 1944, when the American Institute of Physics moved into its present quarters at 57 East 55th Street in New York City, its membership has more than doubled, the number of journal pages published annually has increased over four times, and its staff has been called upon to assume many new responsibilities. As one measure of its increased work, the Institute now has to employ more than twice as many people as it did twelve years ago.

The 55th Street building, purchased during World War II with a $75 000 fund generously contributed by AIP members and industrial firms interested in the welfare of physics, proved large enough to satisfy the Institute's space requirements for nearly a decade. The AIP's growth, however, resulted finally in overcrowded working conditions that threatened to impede staff efforts to keep pace with the rapidly expanding needs of the physics community.

Subsequent studies indicated that the Institute's only practical course would be to move, and the Governing Board accordingly took steps to secure more adequate housing. The present building has been sold, and with the proceeds the Institute has bought a much larger four-story structure located further downtown at 335 East 45th Street—in the immediate vicinity of the United Nations Headquarters. The Institute has agreed to vacate its present offices no later than June 1, 1957. The 45th Street building has been used for light manufacturing and will require substantial remodeling before being occupied by the Institute. It is estimated that conversion costs and the expenses of moving will amount to $250 000.

The second phase of the Institute's Development Program has to do with a clear need for an increase in the publication of the results of research. The vigorous expansion of many established branches of physics has to a large extent been matched by the growth in the number of journal pages published annually by the AIP. Progress in physics, however, has also involved the emerging importance of challenging new areas of spe-



Architect's rendering of the newly-acquired headquarters building of the American Institute of Physics at 335 East 45th Street in New York City. The AIP will occupy the building in eight months or so, after it has been converted to satisfy Institute requirements. Located within walking distance of Grand Central Station, the building is near United Nations Plaza, seen here in the background.

cialized research, and in many cases no adequate provision has been made for reporting the results of work in such areas in the existing journals. The Institute, founded to serve the whole of physics, has made effective contributions to the advance of that science through its publishing program, but there are compelling reasons to suppose that its future effectiveness will require a publishing policy that continually recognizes the full span of developments in physics. The formulation of Institute publishing policy is among the responsibilities of the AIP Governing Board and is a matter for consultation with the Councils of the Member Societies. Special committees of the AIP and Member Societies are examining various aspects of the problem and their conclusions will provide a basis for a detailed plan of action; but it has become evident, in any case, that more pages must be printed.

Preliminary studies now indicate a need for an additional 5000 journal pages per year. Although these pages will eventually become self-supporting, regardless of whether they comprise new publications or are incorporated in existing journals, there will be deficits for several years amounting to an estimated total of $200 000.

The third portion of the Development Program relates to the need for Institute cooperation with the many local and national groups devoted to the advancement of science instruction in the secondary schools. Existing committees of the American Association of Physics Teachers and the AIP are actively concerned with problems in physics education, and additional funds are urgently needed to carry out their recommendations, to prepare and distribute guidance pamphlets and other literature, and to organize and assist local efforts to stimulate the teaching and study of physics. The $50 000 desired for this purpose will give timely impetus to a movement that can be of great benefit to the future of physics.