

AAAS Council Meeting, 1955

Dael Wolfe

The Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held its 1955 meeting in two sessions, at 4 P.M. on 27 Dec. and at 9 A.M. on 30 Dec. Both sessions were held in the Hotel Dinkler Plaza in Atlanta, Ga., and both were presided over by President George W. Beadle. Attendance at the first session was 96, and at the second session, 86.

Elections and Officers

The Council elected Laurence H. Snyder as president elect, and Paul M. Gross and George R. Harrison as members of the Board of Directors. Also elected were the vice presidents and chairmen of sections, whose names are included in the complete list of officers given on pages 271–272. Council voted to authorize the Board of Directors to elect vice presidents for those sections that had not submitted nominations at the time of the Council meeting.

Constitution and Bylaws

At its 1953 meeting, Council decided that a review of the Association's constitution and bylaws was desirable and authorized the appointment of a committee to prepare desirable changes. The committee, under the chairmanship of Wallace Brode, made an interim report at the 1954 meeting. Its final report was published, in substance, in *Science* (25 November 1955) and in *The Scientific Monthly* (December 1955). The changes recommended by the committee and endorsed by the Board of Directors were approved by Council and are incorporated in the revised constitution and bylaws that appear on pages 263–266.

Resolutions

The Council committee on resolutions (Harold H. Plough, chairman, and Detlev W. Bronk, Jane M. Oppenheimer, and Bruce D. Reynolds) considered a number of resolutions that had been submitted by several individuals and associ-

ations. Most attention, both by the committee and in the Council meeting, was given to a resolution concerning the conditions under which meetings of the Association might properly be held.

In the several months prior to the Atlanta meeting, the Association received a number of statements of objection to the holding of a meeting under circumstances that did not permit unsegregated housing, eating, and transportation accommodations for all members. These conditions were not, and under existing laws could not be, met in Atlanta. This fact had been known to the Board of Directors when the decision to hold a meeting in Atlanta was reached in 1953 and was known by Council when the Atlanta meeting was discussed at the 1953 meeting.

The Board of Directors believed that in spite of the difficulties presented by enforced segregation, a meeting in Atlanta was nevertheless desirable because of the advantages of bringing a meeting to a region of the country that has shown marked scientific, technologic, and educational growth since the last visit of the AAAS, and of thus making it easier for the scientists, regardless of color, of that region to attend than would be possible if all meetings were held in other parts of the country. Moreover, the meeting itself was unsegregated, and in the minds of some of the participants the holding of a conspicuously unsegregated meeting was itself a positive contribution toward the breakdown of segregation practices. In this climate of differing points of view, the Committee on Resolutions considered the various resolutions that had been submitted and prepared for Council's consideration the following resolution.

"The American Association for the Advancement of Science is a democratic association of all its members; no one is barred from election because of race or creed. All members are privileged to cooperate freely in the fulfillment of the Association's high objectives which are the furtherance of science and human welfare. No member is limited in his service because of race or creed.

"In order that the Association may at-

tain its objectives, it is necessary and desirable that all members may freely meet for scientific discussions, the exchange of ideas, and the diffusion of established knowledge. This they must be able to do in formal meetings and in informal social gatherings. These objectives cannot be fulfilled if free association of the members is hindered by unnatural barriers.

"Therefore be it resolved that the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science be held under conditions that make possible the satisfaction of those ideals and requirements."

After extensive debate over the effects and propriety of adopting such a resolution, and following the defeat of motions to table the resolution and to make it an order of business at the 1956 meeting, Council voted to submit the resolution by mail to the entire Council membership. It was further voted that following the receipt of ballots on the resolution, the AAAS office should publish the resolution and the vote on it.

It can now be reported that the resolution was adopted by a mail vote of 224 to 31, with 3 abstaining, and that the resolution and the fact of its adoption were on 23 January 1956 released to the press.

As a second resolution, the committee recommended adoption of the following:

"BE IT RESOLVED that the American Association for the Advancement of Science endorses the efforts being made to amend the McCarran-Walter Act to remove those provisions that limit the travel of recognized foreign scholars and scientists to this country, for limitation on the free interchange of knowledge constitutes a serious impediment to scientific progress."

Council voted to adopt this resolution.

As a third resolution, the committee recommended adoption of the following:

"BE IT RESOLVED that the American Association for the Advancement of Science favors the use of funds of the United States through the National Science Foundation and other appropriate government agencies to supplement the travel costs of U.S. citizens to attend scientific meetings and congresses in foreign countries on the ground that the interchange of information resulting greatly strengthens our own scientific competence."

Council voted to adopt this resolution.

As a fourth resolution, the committee recommended the following:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Association for the Advancement of Science wishes to express its appreciation and thanks to the local committee and all other individuals and organizations who have cooperated to make our 1955 meetings pleasant and

profitable. We will take back to our homes an enhanced regard for the hospitality and an increased respect for the scientific and educational institutions in and around Atlanta."

Council voted to adopt this resolution.

Finally, the committee reported that it had considered several other resolutions but that it had decided not to recommend any of them for adoption. From the floor it was moved that Council adopt the following resolution that calls for the creation of an interim committee on the social aspects of science.

"Whereas science has become one of the major factors of modern civilization; and whereas its rapid development has and is producing many major sociological problems affecting the efficiency of research, the application of the results of research, the incorporation of its concepts and its results into the social structure, and the actual conduct of research and the development of science; and whereas it is highly likely that the welfare of science and of society will be promoted by a comprehensive examination of the problems being created; and whereas the American Association for the Advancement of Science is representative of the broad scope of science and has

AAAS Operating Fund Budget, 1956

Item	Receipts
Dues of annual members	\$310,000
Journal subscriptions (Treasurer)	3,530
Members' special subscriptions	
<i>Science</i>	2,800
<i>The Scientific Monthly</i>	16,500
Nonmember subscriptions	
<i>Science</i>	43,000
<i>The Scientific Monthly</i>	20,000
Miscellaneous sales	
<i>Science</i>	1,600
<i>The Scientific Monthly</i>	1,600
Advertising	
<i>Science</i>	200,000
<i>The Scientific Monthly</i>	15,000
Sale of:	
Microcards	450
Binders	1,600
Symposium volumes	21,000
Emblems	1,600
Other sales	600
Meeting	
Registrations, program sales	5,500
Program advertising	2,000
Contributions	6,000
Exposition	
Booth space	14,000
Science library	1,500
Rental receipts	8,000
Income from investments	9,500
Cash discounts	200
Other receipts	300
High-school science libraries	1,000
STIP	9,000
Total receipts	\$696,280

Item	Expenses	Authorized limits for individual items
General administrative expenses		
Salaries	\$189,000	\$215,000
Insurance, retirement, and social security	13,300	15,000
Building maintenance	20,500	24,000
Rent	7,000	8,000
Interest on mortgage	7,800	7,800
Supplies and equipment	20,800	25,000
Telephone and telegraph	3,000	3,800
Postage	12,500	13,500
Travel	5,500	6,500
Miscellaneous	13,800	16,000
Printing		
<i>Science</i>	240,000	260,000
<i>The Scientific Monthly</i>	60,000	65,000
Symposium volumes	15,000	20,000
Annual meeting		
Meeting and exposition	19,800	22,000
Press service	5,000	5,500
Sections, divisions, boards, and committees		
Section expenses	5,000	6,000
Allowances to divisions	7,500	8,000
Board of directors	6,500	7,400
Editorial board and publications committee	8,000	9,500
Other committees	2,000	3,500
Advertising, cost of selling	39,000	42,000
Miscellaneous	1,000	2,500
Contingency and new activities	10,000	10,000
Total operating fund	\$712,000	
Plus partial repayment of building loan	14,000	
	\$726,000	

Within individual budget categories, expenditures up to the amounts indicated in the column headed "Authorized limits for individual items" are allowed, so long as the total expenditures do not go above the approved total amount, \$712,000 (or \$726,000, including \$14,000 for repayment of funds borrowed for construction of the headquarters building). It should be noted that this budget applies only to the Association's operating funds and does not include funds in the treasurer's account or money to be spent on such special projects as the Science Teaching Improvement Program.

already assumed some responsibility for the broad problems created by science; it is hereby resolved that the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science should organize an interim committee to be called 'The Interim Committee on the Social Aspects of Science.' It is recommended that this committee shall be composed of five members of the Council and be appointed by the president of the AAAS for a period of 1 year. The committee shall examine generally the sociological problems being created by science and present to the next annual meeting of the Council recommendations for action if such are found necessary."

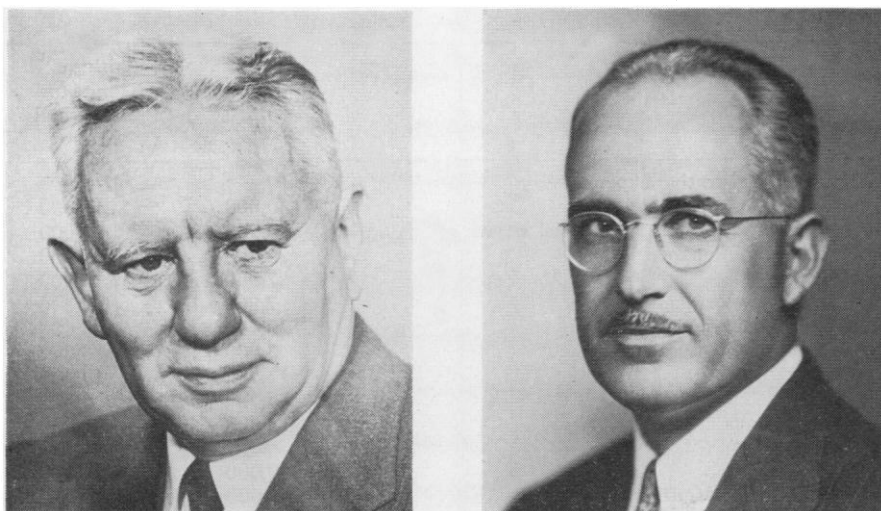
Council voted to adopt this resolution and instructed the president to appoint the committee.

At the conclusion of the report of the Committee on Resolutions, Council voted a resolution of thanks to the committee for its excellent work.

Election Procedure

At the 1954 Council meeting there was considerable discussion of the shortcom-

ings of the existing method of conducting Association elections for the offices of president elect and member of the Board of Directors. At that meeting, the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws, and General Operations was requested to bring to the 1955 meeting recommendations for an altered election system. The committee recommended establishment of a nominating committee to consist of two members of the Board of Directors, the senior member to serve as chairman, and five members of Council. Terms are for 2 years and are to be staggered so that the terms of at least three members, including one from the Board of Directors, will expire each year. The nominating committee will use such means as it decides upon—but it was recommended that the policy of sending a nominating ballot to all members of Council be continued—to select a slate of two or more nominees for each position for which an election is to be held. The names of the nominees will be published in time to permit the addition of other names by petition signed by 30 or more members of Council. Election will then be conducted by mail ballot, with a preferential



Paul M. Gross (left), vice president and dean of Duke University, Durham, N.C., and George R. Harrison (right), professor and dean of science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, are new members of the AAAS Board of Directors. Gross, who is also president of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies and vice chairman of the National Science Board, has done his chief scientific work in physical chemistry. Harrison has served in a civilian capacity with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and the Office of Scientific Research and Development. His scientific field is physics. [Harrison photo by Fabian Bachrach]

ballot being used in case there are more than two persons nominated for an office. Results of the election will be announced at the following meeting of Council and/or will be published.

Council voted to adopt this revised election procedure. It will therefore be the one used in the election during the fall of 1956. In order to get the new procedure started, it was necessary to select the members of the nominating committee. Wallace Brode, chairman of the committee that had recommended the revised procedure, served as chairman of an ad hoc committee to present a slate of names for membership on the nominating committee. He reported that the Board of Directors had selected Chauncey D. Leake for a 1-year term and Margaret Mead for a 2-year term. Upon recommendation of the committee, Council elected Barry Commoner and H. B. Sprague for 1-year terms and Marsh White, Nelson Sayer, and Milton Lee for 2-year terms.

As alternates for any of the Council members who might not be able to serve, Council elected George Paffenbarger, Jane Oppenheimer, Bentley Glass, and Murray Luck.

Affiliates and Associates

Upon recommendation of the Committee on Affiliation and Association,

Council elected the following five organizations to affiliate status:

American Documentation Institute
American Institute of Chemists
American Institute of Industrial Engineers

The National Society of Professional Engineers

Poultry Science Association
and the following two organizations to associate status:

Council of American Bioanalysts
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

Upon recommendation of the Academy Conference, Council voted to suspend the affiliate status of the Missouri Academy of Sciences, since this organization has become completely inactive.

Following these actions, the figures on affiliated and associated organizations became: affiliated societies, 169; affiliated academies of science, 41; associated societies, 55; total, 265.

Other Business

The Council discussed means of increasing attendance at its meetings and considered a suggestion from the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws, and General Operations that the Association might charge each of its affiliates an annual fee and use the money so obtained

to help pay travel expenses of Council members. Council instructed the Board of Directors to consider this suggestion and to correspond with the affiliated societies to determine their views.

Three reports were given. Warren Weaver, chairman of the Board of Directors, reported activities and plans of the committees appointed by the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council to study the effects of radiation. These committees were of special interest because Council had voted at the 1954 meeting to instruct Weaver to appoint a similar committee for the Association. Discussions subsequent to the 1954 meeting made it apparent that there would be considerable overlap in function and probably also in personnel between the two bodies. Upon Weaver's recommendation, Council therefore voted, by mail, to rescind its earlier instruction.

Weaver's report indicated that the intention of the decision to appoint an Association committee was being carried out, even though the Association itself did not have a committee working on radiation effects. Dael Wolfe, administrative secretary, reported on the major program activities of 1955 and the Association's financial situation. The financial balance sheet for 1955 cannot be reported until after it has been audited, but preliminary figures indicate that income and expenses for the year were approximately in balance. He reported also that gifts and grants either unrestricted or for special purposes received or committed during the year amounted to \$430,000. John Mayor, director of the Science Teaching Improvement Program, reported on the activities and plans directed toward the improvement of the teaching of science and mathematics at the high-school level.

The amended constitution and bylaws provide for the naming of certain organizations as "participating organizations." Such organizations are defined as ones whose programs are planned and carried out in close cooperation with the Association. They are entitled to such representation in Council as the Board of Directors and the Council may determine. Council voted to elect the Gordon Research Conferences as a participating organization—the first organization to be elected to this status—and voted also to invite the Conferences to name two representatives to Council.

President Beadle announced that the budget for 1956 could not be presented to the Council meeting but would be published as part of the proceedings of the meeting. It appears on page 269.

I love fools' experiments. I am always making them.—CHARLES DARWIN.