May by Representative Brooks of Louisiana, and Senate bill S2420, introduced in July by Senator Neuberger, both call for a feasibility study of the problem by an appropriate government agency, with authorization of funds. Also of interest was the introduction in July 1959, by Representative Fulton, of House Concurrent Resolution 364, which would place Congress on record as favoring adoption of the metric system.

It is apparent that the United States must soon decide whether to change over gradually, during the next generation, to a far simpler and more logical system of weights and measures or to continue to be counted with the remaining 10 percent of the world's population that is not yet under the metric system.

Note added in proof. A revised report on the larger number of questionnaires is contained in the December 1959 *Transactions of the American Geophysical Union.*

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Time of Planet Formation

Reynolds (*1*) has recently observed high relative concentrations of Xe^{129} in the chondritic meteorite which fell in Richardton, N.D., in 1919. He correctly attributes this isotope to the decay of fossil I^{129} and derives a time of formation of the meteorite 3.5×10^8 years after element formation. This is to be compared to 2.7×10^8 years for the formation of the earth, according to Katcoff, Schaeffer, and Hastings (*2*), who base their calculations on data for terrestrial xenon, and to 3 to 5×10^8 years for the formation of the moon (*3*).

While in the article on the lunar atmosphere (*3*) several mechanisms were considered and three were selected as indistinguishable upon the basis of available information, the new data strongly support the I–Xe mechanism. It is therefore probable that the rare lunar atmosphere is nearly pure Xe^{129}.

The coincidence of these three ages gives strong support to the hypothesis that the planets were formed in a relatively short period, and to the Moulton and Chamberlain planetesimal hypothesis.

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