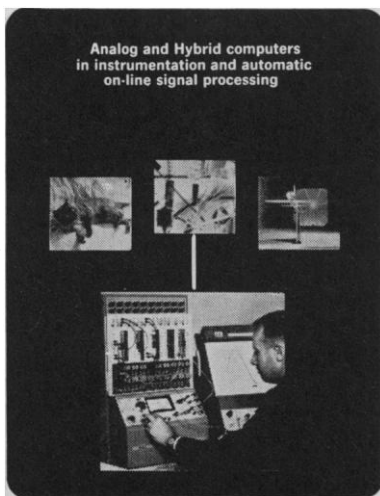


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ical background of any biochemist who applied for a temporary visa to visit the States. I did get my visa after some delay and a substantial exchange of correspondence, which included my supplying a list of all organizations, social and political (from the school chess club onwards), to which I had ever belonged. This list did not include the Communist Party, but did include the British Labour Party.

At Montreal I was held up for some time by a suspicious immigration official who objected to my entering; the grounds were that the conference I was planning to attend was being sponsored by M.I.T. but was being held in Boulder, Colorado, not in Massachusetts. It was only after a lengthy exchange that he conceded that it was possible for a conference to be run in this way and, therefore, legitimate for me to enter the U.S.

Such activities by both Embassy officials abroad and immigration officials at points of entry to the U.S. are extremely prejudicial to free scientific exchange, especially as it now appears that whole scientific disciplines are likely to become suspect in such a bizarre manner. It is encouraging that the U.S. scientific community has thought it worthwhile to protest.

S. P. R. ROSE

Department of Biochemistry,
Royal College of Science,
London S.W.7, England

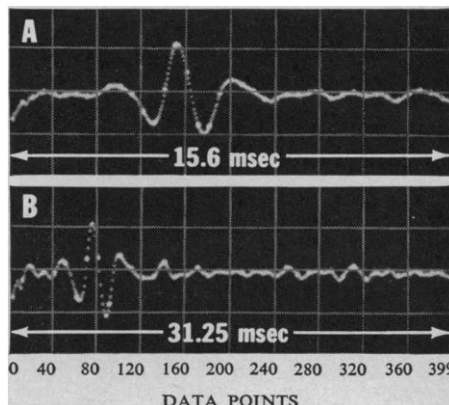
Praise for a Public Servant

Abelson's editorial (26 Aug., p. 939) is a concise summary of the accomplishments and requirements of the National Bureau of Standards. The scientific community supports, I am sure, his concluding hope that Congress will provide sufficient funds and will regard the quality of the Bureau's effort as highly as we scientists do. Glamorous and high priority issues have continuously detracted attention from the needs and achievements of the Bureau, while some programs of vital interest to large industries, such as our ceramic industry, have been curtailed and talented men sacrificed by budget squeezes. The Bureau represents an unparalleled asset to science, industry, and government that should be supported in its modest frame with the concern it deserves.

NORBERT J. KREIDL

Department of Ceramic Engineering,
University of Missouri, Rolla 65401

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