

The 1967 Meeting of the AAAS: A Retrospect

Walter G. Berl, Meeting Editor

The 134th Meeting of the AAAS was held in New York City during the week of 26 December. It was attended by 7279 registrants and, perhaps, half as many more nonregistered visitors. Its varied content was described in detail in *Science* (beginning with the 22 September issue) and needs no repetition here.

More than 1200 topics were offered for discussion. The AAAS sponsored 11 Invited Lectures: Carroll M. Williams (Harvard), Dame Kathleen Lonsdale (University of London), Athelstan Spilhaus (The Franklin Institute), Roger Revelle (Harvard), Cyril Stanley Smith (M.I.T.), Alfred Sherwood Romer (Harvard), Herman Kahn (Hudson Institute), Abel Wolman (The Johns Hopkins University), B. F. Skinner (Harvard), John A. Wheeler (Princeton), and Bradford Washburn (Science Museum of Boston). AAAS committees held three symposia: The Hazards of Iodine-131 Fallout in Utah; Secrecy, Privacy, and Public Information; and Weather Modification in Arid Lands. Six general symposia were presented: Michael Faraday—Natural Philosopher; Is Defense against Ballistic Missiles Possible?; Crime, Science, and Technology; Marine Science; Man and Transportation; and Do Life Processes Transcend Chemistry and Physics? In addition, the 20 AAAS sections and 41 affiliated societies organized more than seven score symposia, contributed paper sessions, vice-presidential addresses, luncheon and evening lectures, lectures and panels, symposia and panels, plain panels, and other sessions. Altogether, more than 250 "half-day equivalents" were scheduled in four-and-one-half working days. Based on sheer numbers and variety of subjects the meeting resembled its predecessors. Sensitive observers, though, could detect a change in direction and purpose away from excessive fragmentation.

Educational Television

The most interesting and, perhaps, the most significant development of the meeting was the "intrusion" of television into the proceedings: interesting because of uncertainty whether such a venture would be successful; significant because of the implication for the future.

Early in November 1967 it became clear that a program of high standards and wide interest was in prospect. Large blocks of air time were made available by Educational Channel 13 (New York, WNDT) so that entire sessions could be televised "live." A generous gift from the Ford Foundation, given in record time, and several smaller contributions (including sizable support from the AAAS) provided the financial support. Most important, though, was the enthusiastic willingness of many people to work very hard to make the experiment work.

Detailed programming began early in December, with the following ground rules: No televised program was to be modified, in content or execution, from what was originally planned. The staying power of the viewing public was assumed to be the same as that of the audience in the meeting room. There was to be no "watering down," no editing, and no censorship. Except for insistence on prompt starting and a tightening up of procedures for handling questions from the audience, these requirements were met. A more difficult demand, how to keep the TV cameras operating continuously from the starting time to sign-off at 5:00 p.m., was solved satisfactorily by scheduling a substantial number of informal interviews. In this way, the breaks between morning and afternoon sessions and any early or late time not needed for formal sessions were filled.

The results were impressive, indeed. Eleven half-day sessions were televised in their entirety over 12 stations of the interconnected Eastern Educational Network. A second crew was on hand to record two sessions of the General Symposium on "Crime, Science, and Technology" for later playback. Forty individuals were interviewed, either alone or in small groups. An extraordinary record in depth and variety was built up.

All televised sessions were recorded on tape. (A substantial part of the video signal of the Kahn Panel was irretrievably lost during transmission.) Inquiries for noncommercial use of this material should be sent to the Meeting Editor, AAAS Annual Meeting, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Tours, Exhibits, Receptions

Not since 1900, when the custom of *Tours and Excursions* was downgraded in favor of more time for meetings, was there such a response to participate in tours to a number of scientific and educational establishments in and near New York. With the enthusiastic support of D. W. Bronk (Rockefeller University), W. G. Conway (New York Zoological Park), F. Cooper (Haskins Laboratory), G. McNew (Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research), R. F. Nigrelli (Aquarium of the New York Zoological Society), W. G. Steere (New York Botanical Garden), and J. L. Worzel (Lamont Geological Observatory) well over 1200 registrants were made welcome and entertained, inspected laboratories, visited special exhibits, and discussed the main interests of the establishments with their senior staff members. New laboratories, recently opened at the Aquarium and the Lamont Observatory, and other facilities, rarely open to visitors, were made accessible.

Symbolic and pleasing was the permission given by J. Oliver, Director of the New York Museum of Natural History, to hold the *Address of the Retiring President* (A. S. Romer) in the auditorium of the Museum, followed by a reception in its Great Hall. Undeterred by a driving rainstorm a large audience listened to a splendid lecture.

A determined effort was made to support the *AAAS Science Film Theatre* on a scale appropriate to its intrinsic potential. This required a large auditorium, projection equipment of the

Televised Lectures, Symposia and Panel Discussions

Is Defense against Ballistic Missiles Possible?

Panel Discussion. M. L. Goldberger (Princeton University), moderator.

Richard L. Garwin (Columbia University), Hans A. Bethe (Cornell University), Daniel Fink (Deputy Director of Defense Research and Engineering, Department of Defense), and Freeman Dyson (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University).

(2 hours, 40 minutes)

Man and Transportation

Chairman: Claiborne Pell (U.S. Senator, Rhode Island).

Man's Movement and His City. Constantinos A. Doxiadis (President, Doxiadis Associates International, Athens, Greece).

Urban Transportation in Context. Colin Buchanan (Professor of Transport, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London). (2 hours)

Science and Technology as Instruments of Policy

Chairman: Sanford A. Lakoff (State University of New York at Stony Brook).

Speaker: Fred S. Hoffman (Assistant Director, Bureau of the Budget, Washington, D.C.). *Systems Analysis and Social Policy*

Commentators: Amitai Etzioni (Columbia University), Edward Friedland (State University of New York, Stony Brook), Bruce L. R. Smith (Columbia University), and Albert Wohlstetter (University of Chicago).

(2 hours, 30 minutes)

Vice-Presidential Address (Section on Economic and Social Sciences)

Chairman: Eugene B. Skolnikoff (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

Speaker: David B. Truman (Provost, Columbia University). *The Social Sciences: Maturity, Relevance, and the Problem of Training.* (40 minutes)

Secrecy, Privacy, and Public Information

Chairman: Detlev W. Bronk (President, The Rockefeller University).

Secrecy and Education. Philip E. Mosely (Columbia University).

Is Secrecy in Science Ever Justified? Robert L. Sproull (Cornell University).

Chairman's Remarks and Open Discussion. Detlev W. Bronk. (2 hours, 30 minutes)

Frontiers of Science: Lecture III

Chairman: Athelstan Spilhaus (President, Franklin Institute, Philadelphia).

Speaker: Roger Revelle (Director, Center for Population Studies, Harvard University). *Can the Poor Countries Benefit from the Scientific Revolution?*

Panel Discussion: Athelstan Spilhaus, Chairman; E. A. Mason (Professor of Nuclear Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology); William Paddock (Consultant in Tropical Agricultural Development, Washington, D.C.); and Hans W. Singer (Director, Policies and Programming Division, United Nations Industrial Development Organization). (3 hours)

Research in Birth Control and Changing Sex Behavior

Chairman: Ailon Shiloh (Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh).

Changing Sex Behavior among College Youth. Paul H. Gebhard (Institute for Sex Research, Indiana University).

The Social Context of Premarital Sexual Permissiveness. Ira L. Reiss (University of Iowa).

Behavioral Characteristics among Women Utilizing Selected Birth Control Techniques. Ailon Shiloh (University of Pittsburgh).

Sexual Behavior and Non-Coital Contraception. Frederick J. Ziegler (Cleveland Clinic Foundation).

Discussants: Mary Calderone (Executive Director, Sex Information and Education Council of the United States) and Charles F. Westoff (Princeton University). (3 hours)

Special Lecture

Chairman: Philip M. Hauser (Chairman, Department of Sociology and Director, Population Research and Training Center, University of Chicago).

Speaker: Herman Kahn (Director, Hudson Institute). *Speculation on the Next Thirty-three Years.*

Panel Discussion: Philip M. Hauser, Chairman; Daniel Bell (Professor of Sociology, Columbia); Harrison Brown (Professor of Geochemistry, California Institute of Technology); Walter Sullivan (Science Editor, The New York Times); and Hans H. Landsberg (Resources for the Future, Inc., Washington, D.C.). (5 hours)

Public Authority and Private Initiative in the Delivery of Personal Health Services

Panel Discussion: Gerard Piel (Publisher, *Scientific American*), Lester Breslow (Director of Public Health, State of California), Lewis Thomas (Dean, School of Medicine, New York University), and Kerr White (School of Hygiene and Public Health, The Johns Hopkins University). (2 hours, 30 minutes)

Do Life Processes Transcend Physics and Chemistry? (An Informal Discussion)

Chairman: Gerald Holton (Harvard University).
Michael Polanyi (Oxford University), John R. Platt
(University of Michigan), Ernest Nagel (Columbia Uni-
versity), and Barry Commoner (Washington University).
(2 hours, 30 minutes)

Crime, Science, and Technology

Chairman: James Osterburg (University of California).
Historical Patterns of Negro Retaliatory Violence. El-
liott Rudwick (Southern Illinois University).
Justice, Violence, and Social Change. James Laue (U.S.
Department of Justice).
The Police in Riot Control. Joseph Lohman (University
of California).
*Negro Reaction to the Los Angeles Riot and the De-
velopment of a Riot Ideology.* Thomas Tomlinson (Office
of Economic Opportunity). (3 hours)

The Expanding Role of Science and Technology in Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Panel Discussion: Joseph Coates (Institute for Defense
Analyses), Moderator; James Scheuer (U.S. Congress
Representative, 21st District, New York), James Oster-
burg (University of California), Alfred Blumstein (Insti-
tute for Defense Analyses and Scientific Director, Presi-
dent's Crime Commission), John Pemberton (Executive
Secretary, American Civil Liberties Union), and Daniel
H. Watts (Editor, *Liberator*). (3 hours)

Televised Interviews

Dael Wolfle, Executive Officer, AAAS.
Walter G. Berl, Editor, Annual Meeting, AAAS.
Dame Kathleen Lonsdale, President, British Associa-
tion; Professor of Crystallography, University College,
London.
Don K. Price, President, AAAS; Dean, John Fitz-
gerald Kennedy School of Government, Harvard Uni-
versity. (30 minutes)
Freeman Dyson, Institute for Advanced Study, Prince-
ton University. (20 minutes)
David T. Wilkinson, Department of Astronomy,
Princeton University. (30 minutes)
Claiborne Pell, U.S. Senator, Rhode Island.
Herman Mark, Professor of Polymer Science emeritus,
Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute.
Herman Pollack, Science Advisor to the Secretary,
Department of State.
Alfred S. Romer, Professor of Zoology emeritus, Har-
vard University.

Albert J. Solnit, Director, Child Study Center, Yale
University.

Selma Fraiberg, University of Michigan Medical Cen-
ter, Neuropsychiatric Institute, Ann Arbor.

Charles A. Malone, Philadelphia Child Guidance Cen-
ter.

Phyllis V. Parkins, Director, Biosciences Information
Center, Philadelphia.

Chauncey Leake, University of California.

Sir Robert Robinson, Professor of Chemistry emeritus,
Oxford University. (2 hours)

Eugene B. Skolnikoff, Department of Political Sci-
ences, M.I.T.

Milner Schaefer, Assistant Secretary and Science Ad-
visor to the Secretary of the Interior.

Bentley Glass, Academic Vice President, State Uni-
versity of New York at Stony Brook. (30 minutes)

Walter O. Roberts, Director, National Center for
Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado.

Carl Sagan, Harvard University and Smithsonian
Astrophysical Laboratory, Cambridge.

Hugh McLellan, National Council on Marine Re-
sources and Engineering Development.

Nicholas P. Fofonoff, Chairman, Department of Physi-
cal Oceanography, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institu-
tion.

John Isaacs, Scripps Oceanographic Institute, La Jolla,
California. (1 hour, 30 minutes)

Margaret Mead, American Museum of Natural His-
tory, New York.

Mary Calderone, Executive Director, Sex Information
and Education Council of the United States.

Philip M. Hauser, Chairman, Department of Sociology,
University of Chicago.

B. F. Skinner, Professor of Psychology, Harvard Uni-
versity.

Philip Abelson, Editor, *Science*, and Director, Geo-
physical Laboratory, Carnegie Institute. (2 hours)

Gerard Piel, Publisher, *Scientific American*.

(30 minutes)

David Krech, Laboratory of Biodynamics, University
of California, Berkeley.

Bernard W. Agranoff, University of Michigan.

Jerome Lederer, Director, Manned Flight Safety,
NASA.

John P. Stapp, Principal Medical Scientist, Federal
Highway Administration.

Daniel H. Watts, Editor, *Liberator*.

Vincent J. Schaeffer, Atmospheric Sciences Research
Center, State University of New York at Albany.

Lester Breslow, Director of Public Health, State of
California. (2 hours)

W. Hines, Science Editor, *Washington Star*.

Judith Randall, Medical Reporter, *Washington Star*.
(30 minutes)

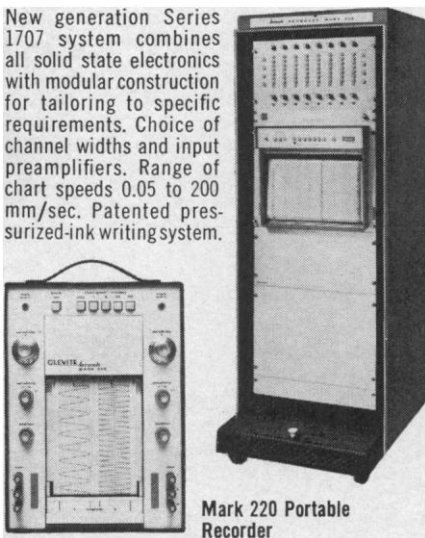
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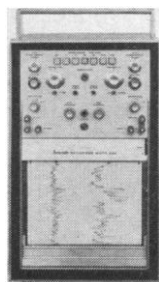
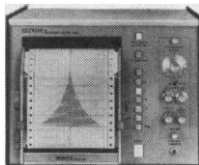


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highest standards, and the best available domestic and foreign films. These needs were met—and several thousand guests attended the seven half-day sessions.

The 100th anniversary of the death of *Michael Faraday* was commemorated in several ways. To a symposium on Michael Faraday—Natural Philosopher was added a demonstration lecture by Ronald King of the Royal Institution, London, who held his audience spell-bound with a brilliant performance, in spite of the difficulties of performing a large number of experiments in an unfamiliar lecture hall. Supplementing this was an exhibit at the Abbey Rockefeller Hall of Rockefeller University. Much unusual material about Faraday was presented for the enjoyment of AAAS members, high school students attending the Rockefeller Christmas Lectures, and the citizens of New York.

Finally, museums and other establishments in New York opened their doors or contributed their help. The Sierra Club, with an exhibit of Ansel Adams' photographs in the Hilton Hotel; The John Pierpont Morgan Library exhibiting some of its scientific treasures (including a letter from Thoreau giving his reasons for not wishing to become a member of the AAAS); the IBM Gallery with an exhibit of Leonardo da Vinci models; the New York Public Library with an exhibit of suspension bridges; the Historical Society of New York with a display of its collection of the paintings of J. J. Audubon; the Ford Foundation with an invitation to visit its new headquarters building; the Museum of Modern Art with a special offer to visit its exhibit of statues by Picasso; and the American Geographical Society inviting AAAS registrants to be their guests at the Explorers' Club.

This, then, is a brief synopsis of a large and complex meeting. The unflagging support and enthusiasm of its general chairman, D. W. Bronk, was visible everywhere. Yet, despite much that was pleasing, useful, constructive, and new, there are problems of objectives, of size, of content, and of style that have not been solved as yet. How to steer a safe course between being too small and specialized (and, thereby, competing with the myriads of technical meetings held every day all over the world) or too large and fragmented (thereby offering insufficient sustenance to the professionals and too much complexity for everyone else)? What limits can one wisely set on size? What audiences are to be served? Can one find

a harmony in tune with immediate and future needs? These difficult questions of objectives and priorities are being raised by the most thoughtful friends and critics of AAAS Meetings.

Calendar of Events

National Meetings

February

25. **Psychoanalysis**, 6th annual scientific conf., New York, N.Y. (A. Blatt, Chairman Program Committee, 7 W. 96 St., New York 10025)

25–29. **American Inst. of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers**, 97th annual mtg., New York, N.Y. (C. Hopkins, 345 E. 47 St., New York 10017)

26–28. **American Physical Soc.**, Boston, Mass. (W. W. Havens, Jr., Columbia Univ., New York 10027)

26–28. **Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists**, Atlanta, Ga. (L. L. Kole, Box 619, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48107)

26–28. **Association of Iron and Steel Engineers**, Western mtg., San Francisco, Calif. (T. J. Ess, 1010 Empire Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222)

26–1. **American Assoc. of Junior Colleges**, 48th annual conv., Boston, Mass. (The Association, 1315 16th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036)

27. **National Multiple Sclerosis Soc.**, New York, N.Y. (S. Lawry, Executive Director, 257 Park Ave., South, New York 10010)

27–28. **National Dairy Engineering Conf.**, 16th annual, East Lansing, Mich. (D. R. Heldman, Dept. of Agricultural Engineering, Michigan State Univ., East Lansing 48823)

27–3. **Scintillation and Semiconductor Counter**, 11th symp., Washington, D.C. (R. M. Emberson, 345 E. 47 St., New York 10017)

28. **Commission on Engineering Education**, 5th annual mtg., Washington, D.C. (Commission on Engineering Education, 1501 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036)

28–3. **American College of Cardiology**, annual mtg., San Francisco, Calif. (W. D. Nelligan, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20014)

28–3. **Biology Teachers**, Anaheim, Calif. (J. P. Lightner, Secretary, 1420 N St., NW, Washington, D.C.)

29–2. **Cystic Fibrosis and Related Human and Animal Diseases**, symp., New York, N.Y. (National Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation, 202 E. 44 St., New York 10017)

March

4–6. **Society of Toxicology**, Washington, D.C. (C. S. Weil, Mellon Inst., 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213)

4–6. **Technology for Manned Planetary Missions**, New Orleans, La. (Meetings Manager, 1290 Sixth Ave., New York 10019)