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(others to be appointed)

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Looking Backward—Chicago AAAS Annual Meeting

Walter G. Berl, Meeting Editor

Soon after the conclusion of an annual meeting of the AAAS it is customary to report on its successes and to mention some of its disappointments. This year it seems worthwhile to cast a wider net, to analyze the effort over a longer time span and to fit it into the framework of the meeting objectives.

The central, basic, and primary goal of the Meetings is to present, in full public view, annual reports on the state of science and to submit these verbal reports to as wide an audience as possible. To do justice to this task requires that no less than three broad areas be covered: (i) reports on advances in *all* the fields of science and of technology, (ii) discussions of the consequences of new discoveries and developments on other human endeavors, and (iii) concern with goals and with values.

Is it possible to carry out to these difficult aims? Can one supplement the many technical meetings that encourage specialization and depth, and those that concentrate on one topic or a few topics, with a meeting dedicated to

breadth of coverage, to the interaction among scientific fields, and to interchanges with practitioners in fields outside of science?

It is best to let the record speak. Three dozen symposia, a number that could easily be doubled or tripled, held at AAAS Meetings during the last 3 years are listed as examples of a superb effort in filling this matrix.

Discussions within and among Disciplines
Current Problems in Cosmology (1969)
Interstellar Molecules and Chemistry
(1970)

Elementary Particles and Symmetry (1970)

Mathematical Logic (1969)

Latest Results of the Deep-Sea Drilling Project (1970)

The Use of Space by Animals and Man (1968)

Separation and Depression (1970)

Education of the Infant and Young Child (1969)

Chemistry of Learning and Memory (1970)

Teaching of Science (1970) Climate and Man (1969)

Lake Restoration (1970)

Discussions of the Consequences of New Developments

Effects of the Large-Scale Use of Defoliants in Vietnam (1970)

Biology and Sociology of Violence (1969)

Advances in Human Genetics and Their Impact on Society (1970)

Mood Behavior and Drugs (1970)
Genetic Technology: Some Public Co

Genetic Technology; Some Public Considerations (1968)

Brain and Language (1969)

Power Generation and Environmental Change (1969)

Unanticipated Environmental Hazards (1968)

Global Effect of Environmental Pollution (1969)

Is Population Growth Responsible for the Environmental Crisis? (1970)

Innovation (1969)

Urbanization in Arid Lands (1970)

Discussion of Goals and Values

The Identity and Dignity of Man (1969) Science and the Future of Man (1969) Human Settlements and Environmental Design (1969)

Reducing the Environmental Impact of a Growing Population (1970)

Is There an Optimum Level of Population? (1969)

Scientific Organization—War-Peace Issues (1970)

Technology and Values (1968)

Physics and the Explanation of Life (1969)

Technology Assessment and Human Possibilities (1969)

Problems in the Meaning of Death (1970)

Is There a Generation Gap in Science? (1970)

Science and Music (1969)

Clearly, not all contributions, coming from an almost bewildering variety of sources, meet this extraordinary level