

## Representatives

### *American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care*

William T. Kabisch (1971), Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield

### *American National Standards Institute Sectional Committees on Abbreviations and on Letter Symbols (Y1 and Y10)*

Everett Fuller, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C.

### *Scientific Manpower Commission*

Wallace R. Brode (1973), American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C.

M. H. Trytten (1972), National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.

### *American Council on Education*

Mark H. Ingraham, University of Wisconsin, Madison

John R. Mayor, AAAS

### *American National Standards Institute Committee N44*

Russell Morgan, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

### *Hawaiian Botanical Gardens*

#### *Foundation, Inc.*

John N. Couch, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

### *U.S. National Commission for UNESCO*

Arthur K. Solomon (1971), Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts

### *Marine Biological Committee of Review*

H. Burr Steinbach, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts

### *National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education*

Arnold B. Grobman (1971), Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey

### *Science Service Board of Trustees*

Wallace R. Brode (1972), American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C.

Bowen C. Dees (1973), Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Athelstan Spilhaus (1971), Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

## 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 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

Statistics on recent AAAS Annual Meeting.

	1968	1969	1970
Paid registration	3,744	7,897	5,790
Attendance of symposia by half-days	7,882	16,284	16,033
Symposia	108	132	120
Half-day sessions	236	286	284
Symposia audiotaped	15	57	29
Television hours	32	37	5

of quality, breadth of interest, and topicality. To the extent that this is not achieved, the Meeting is too large and too complex.

It is a pleasure to report that it was possible to extend, once again, the 3-year-old effort of televising portions of the Meeting via the network of the Public Broadcast Corporation. Despite stringent financial limitations five 1-hour programs were broadcast from Chicago. Effectively produced by David Prowitt and skillfully directed by Steve Gilford, they gave a unique, thoughtful, and attractive record of people, issues, and concerns, arranged along the following five lines:

Human Behavior: Science Looks at Us

Environment: Design for Living

Science and Politics

Health and Medicine: From Gene to Man

The Not-So-Silent Minorities

Another important goal was achieved. The rapid audiotape recording of symposia, including all the discussions, has been accomplished. Within a month's time 29 symposia (58 half-day sessions) are now offered for sale (as are all the titles from previous years included in the above list). They can be warmly recommended, since they present a complete record of the presentations, interchanges, and discussions. In due time, they will be supplemented, in some cases, by the publication of the proceedings. But, for now, they present an important record of the meeting, especially for those unable to attend in person.

Pleasing, too, was the success of the Illustrated Lectures in which several thousand persons participated;

the showing of films and the presentation of film makers to a somewhat smaller but equally devoted audience; and the tours to a number of the best-known laboratories and research establishments in Chicago and the exhibits throughout the city on topics that harmonized with the content of the meeting.

Two unexpected events, one a disappointing miscalculation, the other a serious setback, will now be mentioned. In the early discussions with the Chicago Local Committee the suggestion was accepted to show, free of charge, the complete 13-part series of Lord Clark's "Civilisation" because of its extraordinary beauty of presentation and frequent allusions to scientific and technological matters. Tickets were made available to the local financial supporters, to the Chicago public and parochial schools, and to a number of other establishments. Seven thousand tickets were distributed for three daily showings. Only a few hundred viewers made use of them. It was a pity.

A more serious matter were the dealings with a small number of dissidents. In view of the profoundly troubling problems that were being discussed it would have been surprising if strong views had not come forth and been vigorously expressed. But, for the first time in the long history of AAAS meetings, the thin line separating acceptable practice from unacceptable behavior was breached. In two or three separate instances the spirit of the Meeting, centered on the free interchange of views among the participants, was compromised. It was a denial of elementary courtesies to speakers, chairmen, and not least, the audience. It was a one-

sided termination of a dialogue by people who, having arrived at their "truths," were unwilling to expose them to critical inquiry; who, in proclaiming "freedom," were unwilling to extend it to others. It was a tawdry, discourteous, unproductive performance. Although program chairmen were apprised beforehand of the possibility of such encounters, the spasms of discord and the collective irrational behavior came as a shocking surprise.

How can one evaluate the accomplishments and the losses? A quotation from one of the 6000 participants sums it up well for one group of attendees. He was 1 of 16 students, some studying science, some enrolled in the humanities, whose advisers, a professor of chemistry and a professor of English, had made their visit to Chicago possible. To the question "How did you see this as an educational experience? Would you recommend this as something that other students should do?" he replied, "Definitely! I thought that if we had unlimited funding and could just roam around to ten meetings like this, this would be great—just a course in itself. . . . I felt, as a lonely student from a small college in western Pennsylvania, I could have got up and said something [to them] and they would have talked to me. This is really what grabbed me. . . . If he is saying this to me, I am going to listen to him. I don't have to agree with what he says . . . but I am going to listen to what he says. And I picked up a lot at this meeting that I won't forget. . . ."

And what of the future? Continued efforts to pursue the goals that were proposed with such eloquence almost 20 years ago in the Arden House statement on the future of the AAAS: ". . . This indicates meetings at which one branch of science is integrated to the other branches of science, meetings at which are stressed the inter-relationships between the branches of science, meetings which cultivate borderline fields, and meetings at which the unifying theme would be central problems whose treatment requires the attack of several disciplines. . . ."