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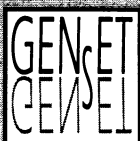
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the field of high-energy physics from all over the world. They have been working intensively for about 3 years, strongly motivated by scientific payoffs still 10 years away. They, and the dedicated staff working at the site to build the SSC, have staked their careers on what they consider to be a truly important scientific effort. They have assumed that, as in the past, once the nation initiates a major scientific project, it regards its completion as a commitment, to be broken only in the event that the scientific justification disappears, that unexpectedly large technical obstacles occur, or that major cost overruns are incurred. No credible case has been made that any of these factors apply, yet the project is each year threatened with annihilation.

The cost of the SSC is indeed high, but when it is viewed as an expense of about a penny per day per citizen, it can hardly be the sink of resources that some make it out to be. This year must be one of decision. The country must decide once and for all whether it is serious about having a future in high-energy physics; if the answer is yes, it needs to move in a manner that best ensures the success of the SSC project and the full exploitation of the science.

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## References

1. J. Watkins, *Washington Post*, 21 July 1992, p. A19.

## DOE, Taiwan, and SSC Support

A 26 March ScienceScope item, "SSC fans launch direct-mail campaign" (p. 1815), states that "DOE [the U.S. Department of Energy] asked several eminent U.S. scientists of Chinese descent, including Nobel laureate physicists T. D. Lee and Samuel Ting, to write letters supporting the SSC [Superconducting Super Collider] to the Taiwanese science council."

I and many other members of the Overseas Chinese Physics Association believe that the Taiwan/SSC-GEM (Gamma Electron Muon) collaboration would be beneficial to both Taiwan and the United States, and we have written supporting letters to the National Science Council. No effort has been made by DOE to persuade us to write these letters.

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