

present a paper in sign language (which was read aloud by an interpreter), he had never been fully able to understand or empathize with the problems of the handicapped.

Another problem, that of "math anxiety," which is usually discussed in reference to women, captured the interest of American Indian educators who find that their Indian students often avoid taking math courses due to their fear of the subject matter. The techniques and strategies adopted by women to relieve math anxiety were found to be especially relevant to American Indians as well.

In a session that dealt with culturally based science education, Maria Hardy, a Puerto Rican biologist from Rutgers, noted that the workshop provided a unique situation in which she could discuss Hispanic folk medicine and medical education with educators who were interested in American Indian medicine. A session on ethnoscience, arranged by Albert Snow, a science educator with the Eastchester, N.Y., public schools, revealed that women, minorities, and the handicapped share similar traditional concepts of science and methods of scientific communication, and stressed that it is possible for each group to make their traditional scientific knowledge useful in terms of science education.

Perhaps for the first time, many of the minority, women, and handicapped participants in the workshop found an opportunity to meet and discuss goals and similar interests.

## **Section W Annual Meeting Symposia Break Records**

The Section W symposia held at Denver in February were an outstanding success. Thirteen sessions sponsored by Section W had an average, and record high, attendance of 104 people per session. Four symposia had "turn away" crowds that overflowed into the hallways.

The symposium topics, chosen in April 1976, were uniquely relevant to atmospheric issues in February 1977. The symposium on "American Droughts," arranged by Norman Rosenberg of the University of Nebraska, was extremely timely, coming on the heels of widespread droughts in 1976. It attracted 150 attendees. A major message of the session was the inevitability of droughts occurring in the United States and the need to plan for them.

## **New Affiliates Elected**

The AAAS Council voted to grant affiliate status to three organizations during its Annual Meeting sessions in February.

Recommended by the Committee on Council Affairs and elected by the Council were the Behavior Genetics Association, the Forum for the Advancement of Students in Science and Technology, and the Society for Social Studies of Science.

The election brought to 284 the total number of organizations affiliated with AAAS.

In a similar vein, the symposium on "Legal and Technical Aspects of Weather Modification" was also timely because of the recent wide adoption of rainmaking in response to severe droughts. This symposium represented the culmination of a 3-year interaction between lawyers representing the American Bar Association and scientists from AAAS. The symposium revealed that there were basic language and approach differences between these two disciplines. A major conclusion was a repeated admission that the use of weather modification in the United States would continue to grow and that our institutional and legal systems would react to this growth through enactments of new laws, both on the state and federal levels. An interesting follow-up conference will be the Sixth National Conference on Inadvertent and Planned Weather Modification to be held at the University of Illinois, Urbana, 10-13 October 1977.

The AAAS Annual Meeting program also included four well-attended symposia addressing air pollution on both local and regional scales. These symposia focused specifically on the impacts of pollution on soils, water resources, agriculture, and health. A clear message was that most pollution could be controlled if we could afford the costs and that impacts are now sizable on the local urban scene.

**To order publications or to obtain further information on activities reported in "AAAS News," please write to the appropriate AAAS office at 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, unless otherwise indicated.**

Symposia concerning the atmospheric and hydrospheric sciences are now being planned for the next Annual Meeting in February 1978. The Section hopes to formulate symposium topics that will be as interesting and timely as those presented in Denver.

In other Section W business, a list of nominees for fellows of AAAS is now being assembled by the Section secretary, Stanley A. Changnon, Jr., Box 232, Urbana, Illinois 61801. Please write for forms if you wish to nominate someone who is a member of Section W.

STANLEY A. CHANGNON, JR.  
*Secretary, Section W*

## **AAAS Committee Notes**

*Science and Public Policy*—The AAAS Committee on Science and Public Policy has a new chairman and six new members. Succeeding retiring chairman Don E. Kash of the University of Oklahoma is John Logsdon of George Washington University. New members of the Committee are Thane Gustafson, Harvard University; Robert Morgan, Washington University; Dorothy Nelkin, Cornell University; Rodney Nichols, Rockefeller University; Albert Rosenthal, University of New Mexico; and Irvin White, University of Oklahoma. Committee staff have prepared a report describing the Committee's activities during 1976, including the R & D analysis project and Annual Meeting symposia. The report is available from the AAAS Office of Public Sector Programs.

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*Scientific Freedom and Responsibility*—The next meeting of the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility will be held in Washington, D.C., on 4 and 5 June 1977. All meetings of the Committee are open to the public. Anyone who would like to attend should contact Rosemary Chalk at AAAS.

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*Future Directions*—On 23 February, Leonard Rieser, chairman of the Committee on Future Directions (formerly Committee on New Directions), presented the group's interim report to the AAAS Council. The report recommends new or augmented roles for the Association in the areas of controversial or contemporary issues, interprofessional collaborative endeavors, convening, and communication. Executive officer William D. Carey discussed the recommendations in a *Science* editorial (see *Science*, 11 February 1977, page 539) entitled

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