workshop coordinator. Under joint sponsorship of the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the 12-month project is designed to identify and develop criteria for evaluating the professional ethics activities of scientific and engineering societies affiliated with AAAS. The results of the project will be useful in coordinating these activities and in highlighting significant programs within the societies. The project reports will also be of assistance in developing a resource base for further study in reviewing professional ethics issues.

The Survey of Scientific and Engineering Associations polled 241 scientific and engineering societies affiliated with AAAS and received responses from 178 societies, a 74 percent response rate. The survey sought information (often previously unavailable) on topics such as the existence of ethical principles adopted by the societies (approximately 75 percent of the responding societies' aggregate membership are affected by such principles); the formation of committees or staff officers within the societies to review ethical concerns or individual complaints submitted to the societies; and the use of sanction and support mechanisms to implement and enforce the societies' codes. The project team has prepared a preliminary framework to classify these activities for further analysis.

The workshop focused on the results of the Survey of Scientific and Engineering Associations, changing attitudes toward professional rights and obligations, ethical issues in selected professions, and ethical issues in the development and use of scientific and technical knowledge. Wide-ranging discussions by workshop participants highlighted important topics for consideration by professional societies, including:

- ▶ the lack of consistent attention to professional ethics issues within the societies;
- ▶ the lack of common definitions for the various procedures used by the societies to respond to ethical concerns;
- ▶ the role of the public in participating in the development and application of ethical principles within the professions;
- ▶ the role of the societies in supporting members who run into difficulties with employers as a result of the members' efforts to uphold their professional ethical principles.

A final report of the AAAS Professional Ethics Project will be published in mid-1980 and will include comments from workshop participants and major conclusions. The final report will represent a unique collection of available information on professional ethics and should serve as a stimulus to further research, greater understanding of the importance of professional ethics in science and technology, and better definition of the role of professional societies in promoting responsible conduct by their members. Further information is available from the CSFR office at AAAS.

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## Reviewers Sought

*Science Books & Films* reviews science books and 16-millimeter films for all audience levels (kindergarten through college). All areas of science are covered, including mathematics and the physical, social, and life sciences. Reviews are written by scientists in the appropriate disciplines.

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If you would be interested in reviewing for *Science Books & Films*, please contact the editor, *SB&F*, at the AAAS address.

## Implementation of Solar Energy Subject of Seminar

"Solar Energy: Issues and Priorities" featured proponents of solar energy describing solar technologies and factors affecting their implementation. Held in Long Beach, California, 2 and 3 November 1979, this was the last in the current series of AAAS Regional Energy Seminars funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Speakers and panelists represented state and federal government, industry, academia, utilities, and consumer advocacy groups. Participants generally agreed that the technology is now in place to make solar a viable energy alternative and that governmental and institutional factors are the primary barriers to be overcome.

In the keynote address, Bruce C. Murray, director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, described energy use as basically a regional problem. He enumerated the assets and liabilities of the Southwest region in adapting to solar. This section of the country, he said, is where solar energy will be most easily implemented.

Jon Veigel, assistant director for commercialization at the Solar Energy Research Institute, called solar energy "social security." He pointed to the fundamental choices which will have to be made before solar energy is truly competitive with more traditional forms. Decisions will have to be made between renewable versus nonrenewable sources, centralized versus decentralized administration, and economic costs versus social costs. These questions, he believes, will involve a change in the national will.

Congressman Barry M. Goldwater, Jr. (R-Calif.), advocated the deregulation of energy costs so that the market price could regulate supply and demand. Big oil, he felt, is being made the scapegoat for poor government handling of the energy situation.

Sheldon Butt, president of Solar Energy Industries Association, voiced the opinion that "neither gas nor oil became competitive without government help" (in the form of subsidies and price regulation) and, therefore, more federal financing of solar would hardly set a precedent.

Poor, confusing, and often contradictory information about solar energy, observed Phyllis Price, energy director of the League of Women Voters of California, has often made the public believe solar energy is more expensive and more complicated than it really is.

Representatives of four of the states now heavily involved in solar technologies described the differences in their approaches and incentives. Nevada, which now imports 90 percent of its energy, and Arizona, which imports 80 percent, see solar energy as a cost-effective source which they need to exploit. New Mexico, which now provides between 4 and 5 percent of the nation's total energy (and will provide 14 percent by the year 2000), is in a much less critical position. California, with its rapidly growing population, is moving into solar technologies at the local level. Some 35 jurisdictions in the state are in the process of considering some type of solar