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Science and Public Problems

There has been an increasing interest in the application of science and technology to public problems (see, for example, the President’s Message to Congress, 16 March 1972). Under a grant from the Office of Intergovernmental Science Programs of the National Science Foundation to Speaker Perry B. Duryea, Jr., the Assembly Scientific Staff of the New York State Legislature ran a single ad in the Sunday New York Times, and a single classified ad in Science (11 Feb. 1972, p. 677) for a Principal Scientific Adviser. In addition, 175 letters were sent to government agencies and universities announcing the position.

As of the cutoff date (1 March 1972), 355 replies had been received, half from the ad in Science, 16 from women, and 6 from foreign countries. Exactly 300 respondents had doctoral degrees, and the average age of the respondents was 42. Fields of interest were about equally divided between the biological and physical sciences. Clearly, 79 people were unemployed, and 36 were ambiguous. All were told, unfortunately only by means of a form letter, of the substantial response, but 128 wrote twice or more.

The Assembly Scientific Staff was established in February 1971 by Speaker Duryea to bring scientific and technological expertise to the legislative process. It is the first day-to-day legislative scientific advisory group. When we anticipate and respond to requests, in addition to our own resources we call upon experts in universities, professional societies, industries, and government, and summarize the problem in straightforward English.

A crucial point in the application of science is that legislators, being politically accountable, must be able to demonstrate favorable results to their constituents every year in the same way that a businessman, being financially accountable, must show a profit every year. Scientists who wish to participate in the solution of public problems (and from the data above, there seem to be many) must learn to function in this climate of the real world and merchandise their product of problem-solving with attention to a market that often doesn’t understand what science really can do. In this matter, professional societies such as the American Association for the Advancement of Science could accept a real challenge.

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29–31. **Northwest Scientific Assoc.**, Waila Walla, Wash. (G. H. Deitschman, U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 469, Moscow, Idaho 83843)


31. New Jersey **Acad. of Science**, West Long Branch. (M. L. Brain, Box 61, Cranbury, N.J. 08512)


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**April**


2–3. Conference on **Chlorinate Dibenzo-kis and Dibenzo-furans**: Chemistry, Analytical Methodology, Environmental Aspects, Toxicology, Biochemical Actions, Natl. Inst. of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, N.C. (J. A. Moore, Natl. Inst. of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park 27709)


3–5. **Reliability Physics** Symp., Inst. of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Las Vegas, Nev. (H. Laufferburger, IIT Research Inst., 10 W. 35 St., Chicago, Ill. 60616)

3–13. Education of Teachers for **Integrated Science**, Committee on Teaching of Science, International Council of Scientific Unions, College Park, Md. (M. Dietz, Science Teaching Center, Univ. of Maryland, College Park 20742)


5–7. West Virginia **Acad. of Science**, Fairmont. (E. A. Bartholomew, West Virginia Univ., Morgantown 26506)


7–12. American College of **Allergists**, Atlanta, Ga. (E. Bauers, 2100 Dain Tower, Minneapolis, Minn. 55402)

7–12. **Wound Healing**, intern. symp., Rotterdam, Netherlands. (Gerrit J. Mulder Foundation, c/o Rotterdam Medical Faculty & Holland Organising Centre, The Hague, Netherlands)


8–13. American **Chemical Soc.**, 165th natl., Dallas, Tex. (Meetings Manager, ACS, 1155 16th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036)


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9-11. Frontiers in Education, Education Group of the Inst. of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, West Lafayette, Ind. (Meetings Officer, IEEE, 345 E. 47 St., New York 10017)
9-12. Interaction of Particle Beams with Surfaces, Lancaster, England. (Meetings Officer, Inst. of Physics, 47 Belgrave Sq., London SW1X 8QX, England)
9-12. American Assoc. of Anatomists, New York, N.Y. (J. E. Paul, Dept. of Anatomy, Univ. of Arkansas School of Medicine, Little Rock 72201)
12-14. American Assoc. of Physical Anthropologists, Dallas, Tex. (E. I. Fry, Dept. of Anthropology, Box 339, Southern Methodist Univ., Dallas 75222)
12-16, Association of Southeastern Biologists, Bowling Green, Ky. (M. L. Gilbert, Biology Dept., Florida Southern College, Lakeland 33802)
13. Utah Acad. of Sciences, Arts and Letters, Logan. (H. Buehanan, Dept. of Botany, Weber State College, Ogden 84403)
13-14. Socio-Economics of Health Care, American Medical Assoc., Chicago, Ill. (J. Rowland, Div. of Medical Practice, AMA, 535 N. Dearborn St., Chicago 60610)
16-18. Nonlinear Elasticity, Madison, Wis. (G. G. Moran, Mathematics Research Center, Univ. of Wisconsin, 610 Walnut St., Madison 53706)
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18–20. Great Lakes Research, 16th conf., Intern. Assoc. for Great Lakes Research, Columbus, Ohio (C. E. Herenden, College of Biological Sciences, Ohio State Univ., Columbus 43210)


19–21. Southern Soc. for Philosophy and Psychology, Knoxville, Tenn. (M. Loeb, Dept. of Psychology, Univ. of Louisville, Louisville, Ky.)

20–21. Illinois State Acad. of Science, Urbana. (N. R. Brewer, ISAS, 5757 S. Drexel Ave., Chicago)


23–25. Instrument Soc. of America, 19th annual instrumentation symp., 14th chemical and petroleum instrumentation symp., Process Measurement and Control Div. symp., St. Louis, Mo. (J. L. Kern, Monsanto Co., 800 N. Lindbergh St., St. Louis 63166)


23–30. American Soc. for Clinical Investigation, Atlantic City, N.J. (P. Calabresi, Roger Williams General Hospital, Providence, R.I. 02908)


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27-28. Iowa Acad. of Science, Grinnell. (R. W. Hanson, Dept. of Chemistry, Univ. of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls 50613)
28. Society for Investigative Dermatology, Atlantic City, N.J. (J. S. Strauss, Boston Univ. Medical Center, 80 E. Concord St., Boston, Mass. 02118)
28-29. Montana Acad. of Sciences, Dillon. (R. E. Juday, Dept. of Chemistry, Univ. of Montana, Missoula 59801)
29-1. Classification Soc., North American Branch, 4th annual, Atlanta, Ga. (F. J. Rohlf, Dept. of Biology, State Univ. of New York, Stony Brook 11790)
29-3. American Ceramic Soc., Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio. (F. P. Reid, ACSI, 65 Ceramic Dr., Columbus 43201)
29-3. American Oil Chemists Soc., New Orleans, La. (J. Lyon, AOCS, 508 S. 6 St., Champaign, Ill. 61820)
30-12. Lindau Psychotherapy Weeks, Assoc. for Psychotherapeutic Training, Lindau, Germany. (H. Stolze, D-8 München 81, Adalbert-Stifter-Strasse 31)

1-3. Industrial Waste, 28th annual conf., West Lafayette, Ind. (D. W. Hawkins, Room 308, Civil Engineering Bldg., Purdue Univ., West Lafayette 47907)
1-4. Virginia Acad. of Science, Williamsburg. (R. C. Berry, 5907 Brookfield Rd., Richmond, Va. 23227)
2-4. International Conf. on Surgical Care, Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, Ireland. (H. O'Flanagan, Irish Medical Assoc., 10 Fitzwilliam Pl., Dublin 2)
2-6. Proteids of Biological Fluids, 21st colloquium, Brugge, Belgium. (Colloquium on Proteids of the Biological Fluids, Simon Stevin Instituut, Jerusalemstraat 34, B-8000 Brugge)
3-5. Society for American Archaeology, San Francisco, Calif. (R. E. W. Adams, Univ. of Texas, Suite 250, 4242 Piedras Dr., San Antonio 78228)
3-6. American Assoc. for the History of Medicine, Cincinnati, Ohio. (G. Miller, Howard Dittrick Museum of Historical Medicine, 11,000 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44106)
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