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## AAAS Headquarters

ON February 9, 1951, this page was devoted to a discussion of the Association's plans for a new building, and now, after nineteen months, it is time to report again. With the Council's endorsement, the Building Committee has continued its work of planning; and John R. Dunning has been carrying on the task so energetically started under the chairmanship of Roger Adams, who retired from office on January 14, 1952.

In 1951 the Building Committee had tentatively concluded that a three-story edifice, designed to meet the Association's needs, was the best solution to the housing problem; but there has been a growing conviction that property is so valuable in this section of Washington as to warrant the maximum utilization permitted under the District's zoning regulations. The Architects Collaborative, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, was commissioned to design an appropriate building, and the result is pictured on the accompanying photograph of a scale model.

The irregular shape of the lot, the rigid limitations on the area available for construction, and the 90-foot zoning restriction on height dictated the prismatic form of the eight-story structure and will require the use of basement space below street level for the parking of approximately forty cars. Necessity bred ingenuity, for the result is a unique but attractive and dignified structure that will provide the Association with artistic and efficient headquarters. Initially, the first two floors will suffice for offices and conference rooms, and the six upper floors will be available to tenants—perhaps other scientific organizations that are seeking modern quarters in Washington.

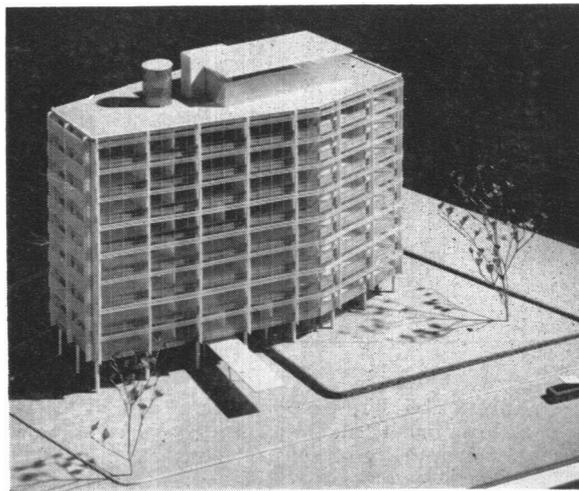
The gap between plans and a building ready for occupancy is a wide one, not so much in time as in the means of execution. Application for permission to build this type of structure is even now before the

District Zoning Commission. Problems of financing are being studied, and it is hoped that members and friends of the Association, whose generous response to a single letter in 1946 made the purchase of the site possible, will again assist substantially in minimizing the financial burden. The timing of construction calls for careful analysis of current conditions in the building industry and of the availability of structural materials, as well as an appraisal of future prospects. The rental of temporary quarters during the period of construction poses another set of problems, and due consideration must also be given to the occupants of residences on the property.

Nonetheless, it is believed that a complete project can be formulated soon, and that its soundness and good sense will win immediate approval of the Council and staunch backing from the entire AAAS membership.

HOWARD A. MEYERHOFF

*Administrative Secretary, AAAS*



SCIENCE, founded in 1880, is published each Friday by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the Business Press, 10 McGovern Ave., Lancaster, Pa. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Lancaster, Pa., January 13, 1948, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at the special rate postage provided for in the Act of February 28, 1925, embodied in Paragraph (d-2) Section 34.40 P. L. & R. of 1948.

All correspondence should be sent to SCIENCE, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 5, D. C. The AAAS assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts or for the opinions expressed by contributors. Four weeks' notice

is required for change of address, and an address stencil label from a recent issue must be furnished. Claims for a missing number will be allowed only if received within 60 days from date of issue.

Annual subscriptions, \$7.50; single copies, \$.25; foreign postage, outside the Pan-American Union, \$1.00; Canadian postage, \$.50. Special rates to members of the AAAS.

The AAAS also publishes THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY. Subscription and advertising rates on request.

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