



FORWARD ON FAITH



This issue marks a change in the *modus operandi* of *Nuclear Applications*. It was suggested that we try to explain what is going on. We are not sure that we know. We feel like a friend who found himself at a funeral service where the one in charge asked if anyone present would like to say a few words of eulogy. After an uncomfortably long silence, our friend said, "Well, if no one has anything to say about the deceased, I could say a few words about that great state of Texas." So, if we can't explain exactly what is going on, perhaps we can hold your interest in this Commentary feature until next month, when we will run an editorial entitled "After the FFTF, Then What?"

Last October we went to the Pittsburgh meeting of the American Nuclear Society armed with figures showing why we needed more than the 500 pages proposed as our quota for 1967. We tried to analyze the trend in rate of submission of those manuscripts that ultimately were published but con-

cluded that the trend as of last October was not very clear, except that we had a vague feeling that the submission rate rose or fell according to the number of "solicitation" letters sent to authors of papers being presented at technical meetings.

We did state unequivocally in Pittsburgh that by January 1968 the frequency of manuscript submission would have reached the point where we would be justified in going to monthly publication. We also expressed the opinion that by September 1967 we might be able to publish monthly. Everyone agreed that, where it is possible, monthly publication is far superior to bimonthly.

Apparently we made a good case for needing more than 500 pages in 1967 because the Board of Directors authorized us to go to 700 pages and to publish monthly beginning with this issue—one year ahead of when we were sure we could do so. Lest anyone question the judgment of the Board, we hasten to point out that publishing costs money, and, since the page charge covers only part of the expense, the more pages printed, the more money required. It was this real struggle to keep the Society's costs down that produced the 700-page limit. Monthly frequency should increase subscriptions enough to pay for the increased page allotment.

We expect the total amount of material received in 1967 to need 700 printed pages. Less certain is whether a temporary lull in the submission rate will occur to make some issue undesirably thin. Hence, agreeing to begin monthly publication so soon requires faith on our part. Some will call it foolhardiness or intestinal fortitude, but we call it faith in the judgment of the ANS members who have seen the need for a journal such as this and faith that those authors who have been "thinking about writing a paper" will realize that now would be a good time to show that they meant business.

Nevertheless, we are walking a figurative tightrope. On the one hand, we are encouraging submission of as many manuscripts as possible and as soon as possible so that we can offer something substantial to the readers each month. On the other hand, we are acutely aware that we might find ourselves in the embarrassing position of having to tell our authors that publication of their manuscripts will be delayed a little, due to the buildup of a backlog, if we start approaching our page limit too rapidly. However, if that happens, we do have other alternatives that we are considering. One is to enlarge our pages to newspaper size or to use foldouts. A second is to make liberal use of a case of old three-point Excelsior type that we acquired from a company that prints legal contracts. A third, and probably the most pregnant, is to eliminate the use of all spacing and punctuation. This will not only enable us to set more characters per line but it will speed up reading by enabling the reader to see more words at a glance. It will also reduce our composition costs by simplifying the justifying process. With so many bright ideas about how to revolutionize the publication business, how can we fail? See you next month.

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