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Henry J. Biere

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Resume of Physics Section Meeting During Fall I.S.E.A. Convention Program

The two major topics dealt with in the physics section are of major concern to physics teachers. Dr. George Bowen of Iowa State University discussed one of these in his presentation on testing in physics. Several different types of test items were discussed. It was Dr. Bowen's opinion that multiple-choice items, along the line of those used on PSSC tests, are quite effective. The problem of guessing as an influence on test scores was brought up, but on the five-item multiple choice type test it was not considered a major enough item to discourage the use of this type of test.

Mr. Eddie Dixon of Iowa State gave a briefing on the Iowa Center of Physics Instruction. This center is now publishing a newsletter and if, as a physics teacher, you are not receiving it, contact Mr. Eddie Dixon, Physics Department, Iowa State University,

Ames, Iowa, and place yourself on the mailing list.

The second meeting consisted of a panel composed of Mr. Dixon as moderator; Dr. Harold Sharlin, Professor of History at ISU; Dr. Edward B. Nelson, Professor of Physics at The University of Iowa; and Dr. Cecil Dam, Chairman of the Physics Department, Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa. The panel spoke on the topic of "Social Relevance of Physics: Important to All or a Select Few." The topic was of interest particularly in light of decreasing enrollments in physics courses. The panel stimulated a good discussion, and although they came up with no real solution to the problem of decreasing enrollments, did provide some good insights as to why physics is important and why more should be enrolled in physics.

In summary I would say the meetings were fairly well attended and anyone teaching physics should have found them interesting and beneficial. I would like to thank the people who helped make the program a success.

Henry J. Biere