

GROWTH OF FEDERATION MEETINGS IN LAST TEN YEARS

The attendance at the Federation meetings has quadrupled in the last ten years and the number of 10-minute papers and sessions have doubled thus doubling the number of simultaneous sessions. The percentages of the total memberships of the various societies attending the Federation meetings have not increased during this ten year period. The actual number of members attending has about doubled, which is about equal to the increase in membership of the combined societies. The number of non-members attending has more than quadrupled in the last ten years and in 1964 accounted for 73% of the attendance.

The number of "sponsored" (all non-member authors) papers has gradually increased until by 1963, 36% of the 935 papers received by APS were "sponsored" papers. Some of these "sponsored" papers were very good but members complained of the poor quality of many of them. Several non-members have found member sponsors year after year. This had reached such a commonplace procedure that in 1963 a few non-member papers were submitted without the member "sponsor" ever having seen the paper.

Many members feel that one of the privileges of membership is the right to give a paper but several individuals (many qualified for membership) feel that it is very easy to give a "sponsored" paper thus having the same privileges as a member but not having to pay membership dues to a society. Most of the complaints about the Federation meetings come from non-members. Are they now, or will they soon, control the size and the caliber of the meetings? Are regular members being driven away by the large numbers of both people and papers?

If the Federation meetings are to be kept from becoming too big to handle some curtailment must be put into effect. The APS, in 1964, did tighten its rules, allowing papers to be presented only if a member was a co-author. This produced a reduction of 20% in the number of papers received by APS. Some members felt that this placed a hardship on graduate students who in the past could be "sponsored." Only 2% of the non-members attending in 1964 were students. Students can be the principle author with a member as co-author and in addition the Fall meeting of the APS has no such restrictions.

If stricter rules are not put into effect by the Federation as a whole, or if some revised plan for meetings is not adopted, the Federation may find itself collapsing from the size and complexness of its meetings within the next ten years.

The accompanying graphs show the growth in the various categories in the past ten years.

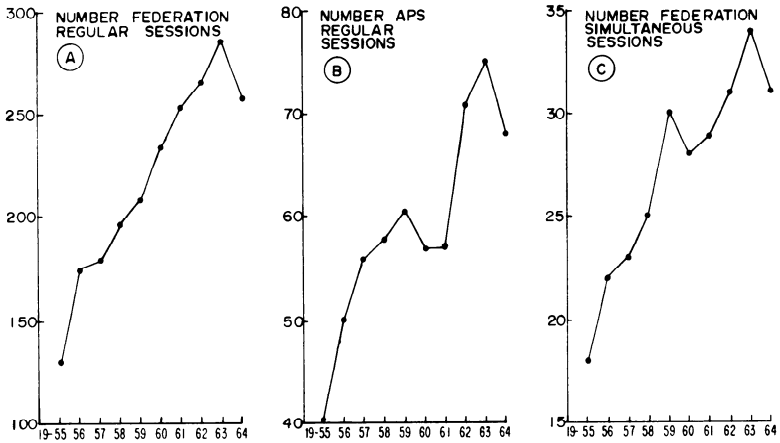


Fig. 1

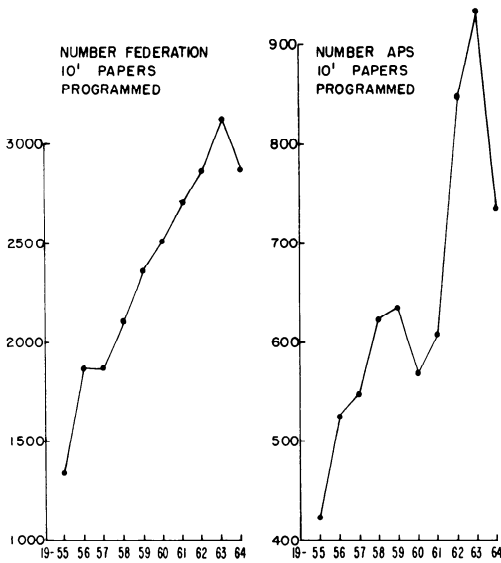


Fig. 2

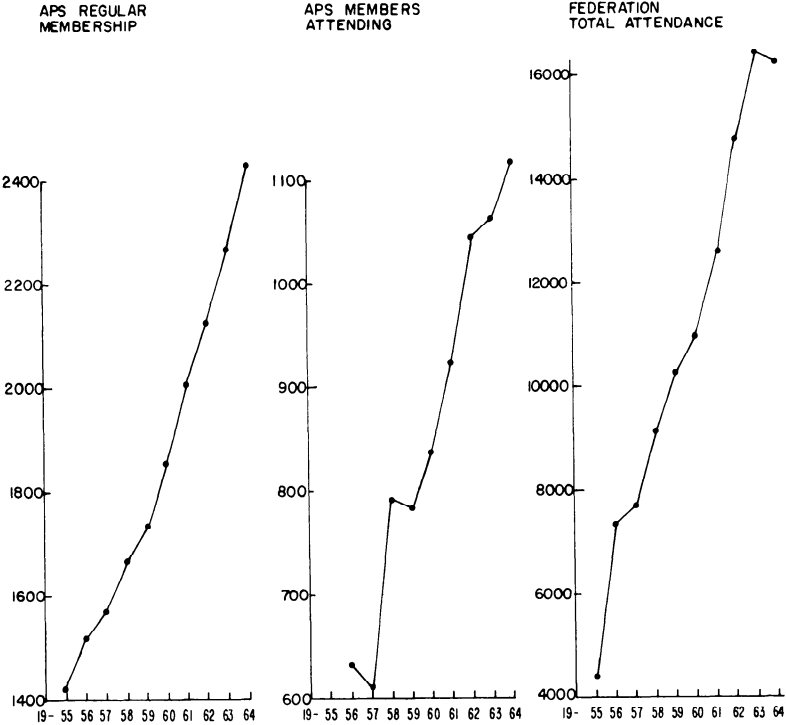


Fig. 3