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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE

GOVERNING BOARD

Working Party on Computers for Nuclear Physics

by B. H. Flowers

The Physics Committee has recommended that the Board set up a Working Party under my chairmanship to study as a matter of urgency the computing facilities required for nuclear physics.

If the Board agrees, I propose to study in detail the particular problems arising in nuclear physics. But I should also like to try to place the nuclear physics situation in perspective, for the fact is that in this country we are woefully undercomputed in almost all areas of science and technology. Thus I would hope to conduct a study which would be seen inevitably to represent only a part of a much wider survey.

As far as nuclear physics is concerned there are essentially three problems. These are film analysis, counter experiments, and nuclear structure research in order of decreasing demand at the present time. Following informal discussions with Professor C. C. Butler, Professor A. W. Merrison, and Dr. T. G. Pickavance I propose that the Working Party should represent all three interests, and should consist of myself as chairman, together with Professor C. C. Butler (Imperial College), Dr. B. Collinge (Liverpool), Dr. P. G. Murphy (N.I.R.N.S.), Dr. J. H. Mulvey (Oxford), Mr. W. Walkinshaw (N.I.R.N.S.), and Professor J. C. Willmott (Manchester), with Mr. I. A. Learmouth (D.S.I.R.) as an observer.

We should clearly wish to call for evidence from a large number of other people including some working in fields outside nuclear physics. For this reason I ask for powers to call for evidence, and to co-opt if that should prove desirable.