which many economists seem to believe in with almost incredible persistence?

Finally, on relevance to the real world. First, the exercise has to do with the need for major regional projects of the Russell-Spoffard kind on the European side to at least provide the infrastructure of more advanced systems should the cultural difficulties ever be overcome; second, for greater investment in recycling and recovery projects of the kind currently undertaken and publicized by the National Research Development Corporation; and third, it clearly concerns changes in design thinking by the engineering industries, in the direction of durability and reducing obsolescence.

Yours faithfully,

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Physical Units

SIR,—An article under the title, "Natural Units in Atomic and Molecular Physics", from Professor R. McWeeny which appeared in your issue of May 25 (243, 196; 1973) draws attention to an area in which there is need of common international usage. It has already been announced that the IUPAC Commission on Physicochemical Symbols, Terminology and Units might consider this question and opinions and suggestions have been requested by its Chairman, Dr M. A. Paul, NRC Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, National Academy of Sciences, Washington DC 20418, USA. The need for an authoritative examination and agreed recommendation is brought out by McWeeny's article since most scientists feel that if letters such as H, as, aV and aT have internationally agreed meanings as the Henry, attosecond, attovolt and attotesla, it is objectionable for them to have special meanings of hartree, atomic second, atomic volt and atomic tesla in special contexts. What is one's reaction to the statement 1 as=24.1889 as?

Yours faithfully,

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Announcements

International Meetings

July 1–7, **The Study of Time.** (Secretary, J. T. Fraser, International Society for the Study of Time, P.O. Box 164, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570, USA.)

July 1–7, **Ninth International Congress of Biochemistry.** (The Secretariat, 9th International Congress of Biochemistry, c/o Svenska Kemistsamfundet, Wenner-Gren Centre, 6tr S-113 46 Stockholm, Sweden.)

July 2–3, **Neutron Activation Analysis Symposium.** (Mr Peter Duggan, Symposium Secretary, Neutron Division, Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems Limited, Elstree Way, Borehamwood, Herts.)

July 2–6, **The Sun in the Service of Mankind.** (Congrès International The Sun in the Service of Mankind, 28, Rue de la Source, Paris-XVIe, France.)

July 2–6, **Second AIC Congress "Colour 73".** (Professor W. D. Wright, Applied Optics Section, Imperial College, London SW7 2BZ.)

July 3–5, **Conference on Scanning Electron Microscopy Systems and Applications.** (The Institute of Physics, 47, Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX.)

July 3–6, **Molecular Motions in Liquids.** (Dr C. Troyannowsky, Secrétaire Général Société de Chimie Physique, 10, Rue Vauquelin, 75, Paris.)

July 4–5, **Anglo-French Symposium—Freeze Etching.** (The Administrator, Royal Microscopical Society, Clarendon House, Cornmarket Street, Oxford.)

July 4–6, **Fourth Canadian Wood Chemistry Symposium.** (Professor R. H. Marchessault, Department of Chemistry, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, Montreal 101, Quebec.)

July 5–6, **A Symposium on Genetic and Structural Aspects of Virus Genomes.** (The Meeting Assistant, Society for General Microbiology, Harvest House, 62, London Road, Reading RG1 5AS, Berks.)

July 6, **Symposium—X-ray Microanalysis of Biological Material in the Electron Microscope.** (The Administrator, Royal Microscopical Society, Clarendon House, Cornmarket Street, Oxford.)

July 8–14, **Twenty Years of Health Education: Evaluation and Forecast for the Years Ahead.** (Secretariat, VIIIth International Conference on Health Education, 20, Rue Greuze, 75 Paris 16e, France.)

July 9, **The Structure of Biological Molecules.** (Dr Lars-Johan Norrby, Structure of Biological Molecules, Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry, University of Stockholm, Roslagsvaegen 128, S-104 05 Stockholm, Sweden.)

July 9–20, **The Physics of Quantum Electronics.** (Professor Stephen F. Jacob and Marlan O'Scullly, Optical Sciences Center, The University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.)

July 10–12, **Conference on Video and Data Recording.** (The Information Officer, 8–9 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3RG.)

July 10–13, **Synthesis in Organic Chemistry.** (Dr John F. Gibson, The Chemistry

Society, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN.)

July 10–13, **The Fourth International Colloquium on Gasdynamics of Explosions and Reactive Systems.** (International Academy of Astronautics of the International Astronautical Federation, 250 Rue Saint-Jacques, 75 Paris, France.)

July 11, **Biochemistry and Treatment of Depression.** (Dr J. F. Cavalla, Society for Drug Research, John Wyeth & Brother Ltd., Huntercombe Lane South, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks.)

July 11–13, **The Hundred and Seventy-second Meeting of the Genetical Society.** (Professor D. A. Hopwood, John Innes Institute, Colney Lane, Norwich.)

July 11–13, **European Nutrition Conference.** (Dr E. M. Widdowson, Dunn Nutritional Laboratory, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 1XJ.)

July 11–13, **British Society for the History of Science—Summer Meeting.** (BSHS Office, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX.)

July 12, **The Annual General Meeting of the British Society.** (BSHS Office, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX.)

July 15–20, **Second International Conference on Culture Collections.** (Dr Antonio Fernando Pestana de Castro, Palácio das Convenções, Parque Anhembi 02012, São Paulo, SP, Brazil.)

July 15–20, **Symposium: Biotransformations and Fermentations.** (John M. Cassady, Ph.D., Chairman, ASP Publicity Committee, School of Pharmacy and Pharmacal Sciences, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.)

July 16–19, **Ninth International Shock Tube Symposium.** (Symposium Secretary, Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Stanford University, Stanford, California.)

July 16–27, **Capri, Italy.** (Dr E. R. Pike, Royal Radar Establishment, Malvern, Worcs, U.K.)

July 16–28, **The Second International Conference on Permafrost in Yakutsk, Siberia.** (Dr Troy Péwé, Chairman, U.S. Planning Committee, National Research Council, 2101 Construction Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.)

July 17–20, **Conference on Pollution Criteria for Estuaries.** (Dr P. R. Helliwell, Department of Civil Engineering, The University, Southampton, SO9 5NH.)

July 17–20, **Biochemistry of Inositol Lipids Control of Fatty Acid Synthesis and Related Metabolism.** (Dr D. N. Brindley, Department of Biochemistry, University of Nottingham Medical School, Nottingham NG7 2RD.)

July 17–20, **Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour.** (Dr A. W. Ewing, Department of Zoology, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JT.)