



AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

ALDEN H. EMERY • EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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RICHARD H. BELKNAP

Director of Planning • Fundamental Journals

November 30, 1962

Mr. William A. Deskin
Midwestern Association of Chemistry
Teachers in Liberal Arts Colleges
Cornell College
Mount Vernon, Iowa

Dear Mr. Deskin:

Your letter to Doctor Cope about CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS has been referred to me for reply.

You are concerned that the new price schedule for CA will put it out of reach for smaller and less wealthy academic institutions. I agree that the price rise was a steep one, but the Board had no choice if CA was to continue. Its costs are rising at a rate of \$500,000 per year.

You make the suggestion that CA be priced according to the number of holdings a library has of the group being abstracted. The problem here is that CA can be priced to no organization at less than the member subscription price - which is \$500 (and below cost at that). The ACS is run primarily for members, hence the member must come before everybody else. Should we charge for CA on a holdings basis, the bottom rate would have to be \$500.

We agree strongly with you and your Association that CA should be available to all chemistry students, and you passed the motion that the Society should be responsible for quick relief to colleges in need. This the ACS cannot do directly. However, I suggest for all colleges which feel the pinch of the \$500 price that they set up special funds to pay for CA. They might turn to alumni groups, local industry (if it uses the college library) or their local ACS sections. Fifty people contributing \$10 each would take care of a CA subscription for a year. Since CA in its present size and scope (187,000 abstracts in 1963) has become like a basic piece of laboratory equipment, such special funds make sense.

Cordially,


Richard H. Belknap

RHB:ml