

MIDWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF CHEMISTRY TEACHERS  
IN LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Cornell College  
Mount Vernon, Iowa

Dr. Arthur C. Cope  
Chairman of the Board  
American Chemical Society  
Department of Chemistry  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Cope:

The Midwestern Association of Chemistry Teachers in Liberal Arts Colleges recently held its annual meeting at Alma College, Alma, Michigan. The membership now includes some 250 members representing approximately 100 colleges and universities in a seven state area of the middle west. At this recent meeting we had a registered attendance of 120 members.

Throughout the meeting and in particular at the final business session of our meeting a great deal of concern was expressed over the extreme price increase of CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS for 1963. This group recognizes the absolute necessity of having CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS available if staff members and advanced undergraduate chemistry majors are to continue with their research programs. However necessary or desirable it is to have CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS available it was felt that the new price schedule would remove this journal from the libraries of a number of less wealthy colleges.

The American Chemical Society's own committee on Professional Training has stressed the importance of maintaining appropriate library holdings which includes CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS if an institution is to provide adequate training for their chemistry students. This, of course, will seriously affect a large number of students if many institutions find it necessary to discontinue their subscriptions to this journal. Also the group did not feel that the alternate provision of obtaining sections at the reduced cost was a solution. These sections will not include annual indexes and thus literature searches would be impossible for students in the future.

As secretary of the Association I was directed to transmit to the Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society the concern of our membership. It was further suggested in the motion which was passed unanimously that, at least as a temporary measure, the American Chemical Society itself should accept the responsibility for quick relief from this problem and thus avoid the breaking of invaluable runs of CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS and the setting of precedents of non-subscriptions to CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS.

Sincerely,

William A. Deskin