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## An Economy Move

THERE ARE CHANGES in store for AG AND FOOD. Beginning with the first issue in 1960, the journal will be published bi-monthly, and will be "devoted primarily to contributed technical articles."

This announcement was first made public in the July 20 issue of *Chemical and Engineering News*; it is repeated here for the benefit of AG AND FOOD readers who are not members of ACS, or who for other reasons might not have seen the *C&EN* announcement.

The changes to be made can be described in simple terms as an economy move. The journal has suffered financial losses from its inception, despite the generally acknowledged superiority of its editorial content. The chief if not the sole aim of the changes now contemplated is to reduce publication costs to the point that the journal will become financially self-sustaining.

What will these changes mean for readers?

Those who are interested primarily in the technical section will find the major change here is in frequency of appearance. Present plans call for publication of the same volume of technical material on an annual basis, with more papers per issue but fewer issues per year. The move may even strengthen this section, by providing sufficient space in single issues to carry groups of closely related symposium papers—perhaps entire symposia, when they consist of relatively few papers. Because of severe space limitations in its issues of recent years, the journal has been forced to forego group publication of symposium papers; all such papers have been handled on an individual basis, without special regard for interrelationships.

But the changes will also involve some losses. They will mean the deletion of essentially all staff-written material—including interpretive reports, business and professional news, personal and corporate profiles, and the annual staff surveys and special staff reports on such topics as fertilizers, pesticides, and food industry developments. They will also mean the loss of nontechnical or semitechnical feature articles contributed by outside experts.

While we remain strongly convinced of the value of the staff-written portions of AG AND FOOD, and of the need for sound liaison between fundamental research and ultimate application of scientific findings, we must recognize that the first duty of ACS publications is the dissemination of fundamental scientific data, that is, original research and engineering information. Thus, if economy demands that the volume of published material be cut, the last thing to go must be the original research reports.

But this observation takes nothing from the value of interpretive reporting and more "popular" presentation of technical information and news. The latter are highly important services, and we hope the day will come when AG AND FOOD can again provide them—even on a more extensive basis than in the past—at reasonable cost to the readers, and without undue strain on the financial resources of the American Chemical Society.