



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

the news

PHILADELPHIA SECTION

Vol. 49 - No. 4

Our 64th Year

JANUARY, 1977

JANUARY MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers

Sponsored by the Geotechnical Group

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1977

Engineers' Club, 1317 Spruce Street, Philadelphia

Cocktails — 5:30

Dinner — 6:30

Meeting — 7:30

SUBJECT:

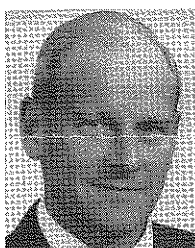
"DETERMINATION OF DYNAMIC SOIL PROPERTIES"

SPEAKER:

FRANK E. RICHART, Ph.D., Professor of Civil Engineering
The University of Michigan

PROGRAM HOST:

DENNIS J. MOHAN, Chairman, Geotechnical Group



Dr. Richart is currently Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Michigan and is past Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering there and has also taught civil engineering at the University of Florida and mechanics at Harvard University. He received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, M.S. in Civil Engineering, and Ph.D. in Engineering from the University of Illinois. He has been a consultant to Consulting Firms, Industry and Government Agencies since 1952, specializing in problems of soil dynamics, vibrations of foundations, marine structures, soil mechanics, analytical methods and material problems.

In addition, Dr. Richart is a member of many Scientific, Honorary and Professional Societies including ASCE (Fellow), the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering (Past Chairman), ASTM, U.S. National Academy of Engineering and the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. He has authored a major book and over 50 technical papers and has won numerous awards for them including the Middlebrooks Award and Wellington Prize, and he was a Terzaghi Lecturer. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in Florida and Michigan.

SPECIAL FEATURE:

"DREXEL NIGHT"

The ASCE Student Chapter members, faculty and alumni of the Civil Engineering Department of Drexel University will be honored at this meeting. All students, faculty and alumni are cordially invited to attend.

Free Beer and Refreshments at the Meeting

Mail Reservation Cards Immediately — Win a FREE DINNER!

STUDENTS — Plan to attend for Dinner (Half Price) or meeting after Dinner

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to new regulations and fees by the post office it is necessary to discontinue prepaid return cards for our Section meetings. Post office fee is \$30.00 per year plus 21 cents per returned card.

New cards will be mailed with THE NEWS that will require 9 cent stamps. Alternative to return card is to call The Engineers' Club, 1317 Spruce Street and notify them of the number expected to attend dinner-meeting. Phone: (215) PE 5-5234.

THANK YOU, LOYALTY FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Treasurer Theodore Davis expresses the Phila. Section's sincere appreciation to those members who add contributions to the Loyalty Fund when they remit their checks for Section dues. These voluntary contributions help make possible the continuation of the Section's diverse programs to improve the stature of the Phila. Section, the ASCE and the profession within the Delaware Valley community.

Members, your 1976-1977 Section dues (\$10.00) are now payable. Please mail your check, to the order of **Phila. Section, ASCE**, to ASCE, Engineers' Club, 1317 Spruce St., Phila. 19107, attn. Theodore Davis, Treasurer. And — add a voluntary contribution to the Loyalty Fund. It will be put to good use.

Notice: If THE NEWS arrives late — or you forget to mail your dinner card, please call The Engineers' Club, PE 5-5234 and leave word for Mr. deKovacs, Exec. Mgr., to reserve a dinner plate for you. Of course, you are welcome for the meeting later, if you are unable to have dinner. No reservation necessary.

The President's Message

LOOKING TO A NEW AND BETTER YEAR

This past year has been a successful one for the Philadelphia Section with our many local activities and hosting the National Convention as the highlight of the year. We also have a permanent commemorative for the year in the form of the excellent publication "The History of Civil Engineering and Construction in the Delaware Valley."

Now let us keep our sights forward to what we can do to make the New Year better for Civil Engineering and for our fellow man. If each one of us can be challenged to become more involved in technical matters, in legislative problems and in our Society's activities we will be making a big contribution toward increasing our successes for the future and to improve the quality of our society.

Will M. Heiser, *President*
Phila. Section, ASCE

DECEMBER MEETING

Engineers' Club December 14, 1976

(Editors Note: THE NEWS thanks A.M.F. President William M. Malarkey and his charming wife Maureen for their authorship of the following writeup. Bill was our excellent Program Host for the meeting, and Mrs. Malarkey attended and lent a helping hand to her hard-working husband.

A group of about seventy attended the December regular Phila. Section meeting sponsored by the Associate Member Forum. They enjoyed an excellent talk by **Richard A. Mulford** of the Philadelphia Electric Co. on: "Construction of the Limerick Nuclear Power Facility."

Most of the problems encountered with this project have been in the courts and in license and permit delays, rather than at the construction site. Permits are required from 28 different agencies; a delay in any one application can throw off the completion date by years. Court action by environmental and other groups has delayed construction by as much as two years at a time, with the result that from an original on-line target date of 1975, the earliest possible date is now 1985. Not surprisingly, the cost has risen from about \$800 million to over \$2.5 billion. Mr. Mulford added that Phila. Electric Co. has no further plans for nuclear plants until well into the 1990's.

The Limerick plant, when on line, will have two General Electric Boiling Water Reactors producing 2.2 million KW, and will have two 507 foot tall cooling towers, which will be the largest structures in Montgomery County. These towers will circulate 470,000 gallons of water per minute and lose only 2½% to evaporation, but even this small percentage amounts to 35 MGD which must be replaced, and the adjacent Schuylkill isn't large enough, so water will be taken from the Delaware, using the

Perkiomen Creek where possible and pipelines where necessary.

After a discussion on the reactor vessels, fabrication and erection procedures, Mr. Mulford exchanged views with the members. Topics varied from nuclear waste disposal and recycling to the problems imposed by environmental and other pressure groups. Also discussed was the "Energy Park" concept, which may be the only answer to future power needs on a state-wide or larger basis.

Swarthmore and Widener Night

The meeting honored the faculty, students and alumni of these colleges. Section President Will Heiser introduced Professors **Samuel T. Carpenter** and **Joseph M. Willis** of Swarthmore and **Dr. George N. Bathish** of Widener, who in turn introduced the Student Chapter officers and members of their respective schools. The faculty and alumni of the respective colleges were also acknowledged. Professors Carpenter, Willis and Bathish presented brief summaries of the current and proposed civil engineering curricula, programs and special projects at Swarthmore and Widener.

EIT EXAM REVIEW COURSE

Temple University
College of Engineering Technology
Broad Street and Columbia Avenue
Thursday Evenings — 6:00 to 8:30 P.M.
January 27, 1977 thru April 28, 1977

Registration:

January 10, 11 & 12, 1977
Staufer Hall — Room 300
(Mr. Walter Uecker — 787-7802)
Broad Street and Columbia Avenue
5:00 to 8:00 P.M.
\$125.00

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TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Construction

Date: Tuesday, January 25, 1977

Engineers' Club — 7:00 P.M.

Subject: Techniques of Underpinning

Speakers: **James Sigourney**,
Schnabel Foundation Co.

John Donargo,

Spencer, White & Prentis, Inc.

Program Host: **Fredric L. Plotnick**,
Chairman, Construction Group

Mr. Sigourney will discuss the design and specification of tiebacks, and Mr. Donargo will explain their installation.

Geotechnical

Sponsor of Main Section Meeting,
January 11, 1977. See page 1.

Structural

Date: Thursday, January 20, 1977 —

Luncheon Meeting

Engineers' Club — 12:00 Noon

Transportation and Urban Renewal

Date: Tuesday, January 18, 1977 —

Luncheon Meeting

Engineers' Club — 12:00 Noon

PHILADELPHIA SECTION AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS Officers 1976-1977

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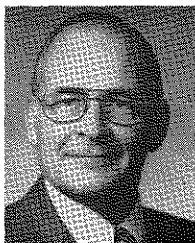
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**COPY DEADLINE FOR
FEBRUARY, 1977 ISSUE
JANUARY 19, 1977**



JACK LOTZ ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

John J. Lotz, builder and developer of industrial parks, has been elected as 1977 Engineer of the Year in Delaware Valley. He will be honored during National Engineers' Week to be observed in Delaware Valley Feb. 18 through Feb. 26, 1977.

Lotz, who has been cited for his work to improve the environment, is a Civil Engineer and member of the Phila. Section ASCE. He was elected by delegates representing 50 engineering and technical societies in the area. He was elected over six others nominated for the annual honor and was the candidate of the Philadelphia Post, Society of American Military Engineers.

His election was announced by C. R. ("Chuck") Pennoni, general chairman of the 1977 Engineers' Week for Delaware Valley and vice president of the Philadelphia Section ASCE. The committee is responsible for Engineers' Week programs at educational institutions and at industries to generate student interest in engineering.

Lotz, who lives in Abington township, is executive vice president of William F. Lotz, Inc., of the Frankford sector of Philadelphia and Horsham, Montgomery county. His firm has been engaged in

design and construction of industrial and office complexes in 17 states.

Area developments by the Lotz firm include the 200-acre Prudential Business Campus, Horsham, and the 80-acre Horsham Ridge Industrial Park.

Jack Lotz has been honored by the Montgomery County Planning Commission for "extraordinary concern for the environment;" by the Montgomery County Industrial Development Corp. for the "best planned industrial development;" and by American Industrial Properties Report for "promoting sound environmental planning in the industrial and office park field."

He serves as president of the National Association of Industrial and Office Parks, an organization comprised of 700 developers with \$7 billion invested in United States, Canada, Mexico, Argentina and Taiwan.

Mr. Lotz also is a member of the board of directors of the General Building Contractors' Association in Philadelphia and chairman of GBC's education committee which strives to improve student knowledge of building in five colleges.

He is vice president of historic Carpenters' Company at Carpenters' Hall. Last July 5, Lotz headed a committee to welcome Britain's Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip to the hall during their Bicentennial visit to the city.

Mr. Lotz attained his degree in Civil Engineering at Lehigh University. He is a registered professional engineer and a member, in addition to ASCE, of the Society of Military Engineers, American Industrial Development Council and serves on the boards of the American Oncologic Hospital and Fox Chase Center for Cancer Care. He is also active in numerous civic, fraternal, and educational boards and authorities.

Phila. Section delegates on the Selection Committee were **Walter Clark** and **Sidney Robin**. The Committee met at the Bell Telephone Building, 16th St. & B. F. Parkway on Dec. 2, 1976.

The theme of the 1977 Engineers' Week is: "Key to the Future — Engineering."

The national and Delaware Valley programs will include high school conferences, guidance counseling seminars on engineering careers, talks by engineers before student and civic groups, and guided tours of industrial plants.

Special features of the Delaware Valley program will be a Science Teachers' Workshop for high school teachers and guidance counselors, and the presentation of awards for outstanding engineering achievements in Delaware Valley.

Chuck Pennoni, President of Pennoni Associates, Inc., was honored as the Young Engineer of the Year in 1971 by the Phila. Chapter, PSPE, and he was Drexel University Honor Man of the Year in 1973.

He succeeds **Lewis Caccese**, Chief of Operations, U. S. Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District. Mr. Caccese, a prominent member and former Director of the Phila. Section, ASCE, is 1976-1977 President of the Phila. Chapter, PSPE.

ACI MEETING ON BUILDING CODE

The Delaware Valley Chapter, American Concrete Institute announces a meeting to discuss the topic

"USING ACI 318 THE EASY WAY"

Date: **Thursday, January 13, 1977,**

Engineers' Club, 1317 Spruce Street

Time: Cocktails—6:00 p.m. — Cash Bar

Dinner—7:00 p.m. — \$7.25 (Students \$3.50)

Meeting—8:00 p.m. — No Charge
(All Welcome)

Speaker: **Russell S. Fling**, President, American Concrete Institute; President, R. S. Fling & Partners, Inc. Columbus, Ohio.

As a consulting engineer, Russ Fling will give some ideas as to techniques his firm has developed for designing safe, economical structures, while making a profit on minimal fees. You may also have the opportunity to make suggestions for the Building Code Committee (318) on how to simplify the Code itself.

The next ACI meeting will be jointly with the Reading Section of ASCE on Thursday, March 17, 1977 at the Berkshire Hilton outside Reading. Dov Kaminetzky will discuss "How to avoid Formwork Failures".

For dinner reservations please contact:

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ASSOCIATE MEMBER FORUM NEWS

The A.M.F. is planning a meeting for next February to be held at Drexel University. **Dr. Anthony M. DiGioia, Jr.**, Director of ASCE District IV will be the featured speaker. The tentative date is **Monday evening, Feb. 14, 1977**. A definite date and location will appear in next month's issue of **THE NEWS**. All Associate Members and Student Chapter members are invited.

Our regular correspondent for this column (and AMF vice president) **Bill Parante**, of G.F.C. & C. has been assigned to Nigeria for six months or so. During his absence, please send any bits of information about associate members (social, business, etc.) to **Bill Malarkey**, PennDOT Bridge Unit, 200 Radnor-Chester Rd., St. Davids, Pa. 19087.

KUDOS TO DAVIS AND TANTALA

The jobs of Treasurer and Secretary of a professional organization such as the Phila. Section ASCE are demanding ones, laden in abundance with details and time-consuming chores. The perennial Treasurer of the Phila. Section, **Ted Davis**; and the recently installed Secretary, **Al Tantala**, are the silent heroes of our group and too much praise cannot be accorded them.

Working in concert, Ted and Al have completed and submitted to New York Headquarters a magnificent document: **The Annual Report of the Phila. Section, ASCE, Fiscal Year October 1, 1975 to September 30, 1976**. As required by Society By-laws, the Annual Report of Section Activities and Finances summarizes the Section's programs and operations. It includes data on the Branches, Technical Groups, Committees Publications, Associate Member Forum, Student Chapters, Women's Auxiliary, and other subsidiary groups.

The report conveys the information which will be helpful to the National Board of Direction, Committee on Local Sections and District Councils, Headquarters Staff, and other Sections—in evaluating Section affairs. It also is an important prerequisite to the payment by National of the annual allotment to the Section.

Your Publications Chairman was extended by Secretary Tantala the courtesy of a complimentary copy of this splendid Report, and he vouches for its excellence. The Section is deeply indebted to our esteemed Treasurer and Secretary for their outstanding work.

"THE BOOK" IS READY AND WAITING FOR YOU

The special Bicentennial Commemorative Book celebrating the 1976 ASCE National Convention and Exposition, hosted by the Philadelphia Section at The Sheraton, September 27 - October 1, 1976: **"The History of Civil Engineering and Construction in the Delaware Valley"** is now available for purchase by the Section membership, their friends and associates.

The 164-page handsomely bound hard cover profusely illustrated volume vividly portrays the full Convention program; a circumferential spectrum of historical and technological interest of the principal branches and elements of civil engineering, construction and public works development in the Delaware Valley. It contains short histories of the foremost engineers, consulting firms and construction-allied companies and industries in the region.

Sponsors (\$25.00 contribution), Professional Card inserters, advertisers (including firm histories) are each entitled to a complimentary copy of the book. **In order that the Section may be spared heavy postage costs, we request that these copies be picked up at the offices of Section Treasurer Theodore Davis, c/o Rothbaum & Davis, 215 S. Broad Street, Phila. 19107, Phone (215) PE 5-6498.** Copies are also on hand for purchase—at \$10.00 each—at Mr. Davis' office, and also at the **Engineers' Club** (ask for Mr. deKovacs, Executive Manager, at the main desk). The Membership is urged to buy these valuable books. They will add prestige and effective reference focus to your library. You will also be helping defray the great cost to the Section of the recent great Convention.

(Editors Note: The following letters were received from ASCE, New York Headquarters and the Book Committee is pleased to pass them on to the Section.)

JUSTIN & COURTNEY DIVISION OF O'BRIEN & GERE ENGINEERS

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DOVER, DELAWARE

December 21, 1976

Mr. Sidney Robin
4745 North 12th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19141

Dear Mr. Robin:

I am looking at a copy of **"The History of Civil Engineering and Construction in the Delaware Valley"** and I want you to know that you and the others who worked on it have most certainly set a new high standard for similar ASCE Section histories. My congratulations are extended.

We will be giving notice of the volume in ASCE News and will also bring it to attention during the forthcoming Section Management Workshops.

Sincerely,

Eugene Zwoyer
Executive Director, ASCE

December 21, 1976

Dear Sid:

Congratulations, The History of Civil Engineering and Construction in the Delaware Valley is great. Many thanks for the two copies which you sent. They will be put to good use.

You deserve a lot of credit for I appreciate the great time and effort that goes into a publication such as this.

We will follow up on your suggestion for publicity in ASCE News.

Best regards,

Herbert R. Hands, Manager
Public Information Services, ASCE

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The next regular monthly Luncheon-Meeting will be held at the Engineers' Club, **12:00 noon on Wednesday, January 19, 1977**. It is to be noted that the Auxiliary is resuming the January and February luncheons this year (they were omitted last year).

A representative of the Bell Telephone Co. will show a film entitled: **"Pesos, Pegs and Pennies"** an entertaining film that proves money can be funny.

All Section members are urged to join the Auxiliary and take part in its interesting activities. Come to the January meeting and your membership application will be waiting for you. For reservations, please call Natalie (Mrs. William K.) Clayton at MI 6-2817. Your guests are also cordially invited.

SECTION MEMBERS!

Please Take **THE NEWS** Home. Your Wife Wants to Read The Women's Auxiliary Items.



LEGISLATIVE CORNER

by John E. Spitko

Start Something — Get Involved

Excerpt from the November 11 issue of Engineering News Record:

"Late last month in Chicago, Engineers Joint Council (EJC) ran a two-day conference on the role of the engineering community in the public decision-making process. The program stressed a need for more engineering input on many issues of the day and pointed up some ways this input is being offered — in all too few situations."

The article continues:

"Gilbert W. Keyes, of the staff of the Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences, told EJC the engineers' assets as contributors to public policy are their credibility, their expertise and their recognized organizations". However, "initiative" appears to be lacking.

And now the plug — if you are interested in serving on an ASCE committee which will provide input to the Pennsylvania legislature on specific, continuing issues, contact George Beetle (KI 6-7442) or Matthew MacTish (1-398-2586). They're trying to *start something*.

Update

Pennsylvania Senate Bill 1 — The Pennsylvania Flood Disaster Prevention Act was rejected and is now dead unless reintroduced in January.

Pennsylvania House Bill 2492 — This bill is to provide for the selection and award of contracts relating to design, feasibility and landscaping which are awarded to architects and engineers. This bill would set up a Public Works Professional Services Board in the Treasury Department. For a public works project of any local authority or publicly owned utility, for which State funds are directly or indirectly expended, professional firms would be selected by the authority from a comprehensive register maintained by the Professional Services Board. This bill never got out of the committee and is dead unless reintroduced in January.

Pennsylvania House Bill 2493 — Amendment to Professional Engineers Registration Law (see Nov. "NEWS"). This would allow professional surveyors to perform engineering surveys and planning, among other things. This bill never got out of the Committee on Professional Licensure and is dead unless reintroduced in January.

1977 MEAD PRIZE FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The topic for the 1977 Daniel W. Mead Prize for ASCE Associate Members is: "Engineering Advertising — Where Should the Line be Drawn?"

The new ASCE Code of Ethics specifies that engineers shall build their professional reputations on the merits of their services, and shall not compete unfairly with others. The Guidelines to Practice state that engineers may advertise professional services in a way that does not contain self-laudatory or misleading language, or is in any other manner derogatory to the dignity of the profession.

Some individuals feel that there should be no restrictions on advertising, while others think the new Code is too permissive. What do you think Associate Members?

The following rules must be followed in the competition:

- * Only one person (an Associate Member) can write each paper.
- * Each Section can submit only one paper.
- * Papers are limited to 2,000 words and must be submitted to National, through the Philadelphia Section, by **May 1, 1977**. One winner will be selected from each of the ASCE's four zones.
- * The National winner, selected from the zone winners, will receive a wall plaque and a certificate; and the paper will be published in **Civil Engineering** or in **Engineering Issues**.
- * For more information, contact AMF President Bill Malarkey, PennDOT, 200 Radnor Chester Road, St. David's, Pa. 19087; Phone: (215) 687-1600, Ext. 268; or Sidney Robin, Editor of THE NEWS, (215) DA 9-4121.

The Daniel W. Mead Prize for Associate Members was established in 1939 to honor the memory and accomplishments of the 67th President of ASCE. The talents of many of the leaders of the profession were first recognized in previous competitions for this significant honor. The current contest provides

another opportunity for alert young Civil Engineers to further their professional development and gain National attention.

In 1974, Phila. Section member **John E. Spitko**, was the winner of the Mead Prize. So, start writing, Associate Members! Let's have another winner this year.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Justin & Courtney Awarded Contract

Justin & Courtney, Inc., Consulting Engineers, Div. of O'Brien & Gere Engineers Inc., was recently selected by the State of New Jersey to conduct two major flood insurance studies. One study will include 14 communities and a total of 393 miles in the Rancocas Creek watershed in Central New Jersey. The other study will involve 12 communities in the Delaware River Basin and the investigation of a total of 324 miles of streams.

Three distinguished Phila. Section members are associated with Justin & Courtney: Section President **Will M. Heiser**, **Joel B. Justin**, and **Neville C. Courtney**. Mr. Heiser and Mr. Justin are principals of the firm. Mr. Courtney who retired from active participation in the firm as a partner, is a Past President of the Phila. Section (1949 - 1950).

Farrell Firm Honored

Joseph R. Farrell, Inc., Building Construction firm of West Conshohocken, headed by Phila. Section Past President (1964 - 1965) **Joseph R. Farrell, Jr.**, was recently named **General Contractor of the Year** by the members of the Subcontractors Association of Delaware Valley (SADV).

The Farrell firm was founded in 1922 by the late Joseph R. Farrell, Sr., who was also a Phila. Section Past President (1954 - 1955).

At the same ceremony, held at the Association's Seventh Annual Awards Dinner at Stouffer's Valley Forge Hotel, King of Prussia, Pa., November 20, 1976, **James Morrison**, also of the Farrell firm, was cited as Superintendent of the Year.

Selection Guide for the SADV General Contractor of the Year Award are: Does he in general run an efficient, well coordinated job? Is he reasonably prompt in processing and paying the sub's requisitions? Is he reasonable with respect to change orders, back charges, and in interpreting the sub-contract? In general, is he reasonable and fair toward his subcontractors and suppliers?

The Phila. Section congratulates Joe, Superintendent Morrison and the firm on achieving the high honors.

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CONTROVERSY OVER ARAB BOYCOTT WITHIN ASCE

by John E. Spitko

Most of the oil rich Middle East countries have national laws which promote an economic boycott of Israel. This includes not giving work to any company whose business substantially helps Israel. A new law will require all U. S. firms to refuse to adhere to these boycott policies — using punitive measures. The ASCE National Board of Direction formally adopted a position (September 25, 1976) opposing this legislation. It is felt by ASCE National Board that this legislation will prevent American construction companies and engineering consultants from working abroad in certain oil-rich, Middle Eastern countries. The Philadelphia Section ASCE Board passed an official resolution opposing the National ASCE Board's actions (December 14, 1976). This, in a nutshell, is the controversy. Now let's get to the details.

What is the Arab Boycott: Forbes Magazine reported the following:

"Administered by the Arab League, the boycott is directed primarily against companies that do business with Israel and secondarily against companies that do business with companies that do business with Israel. The policy is embedded in the laws of most of the Arab League countries. Companies refusing to comply with these laws are excluded from doing business in these countries, and that includes those companies that refuse to provide information on whether they comply with the boycott or not". In the past, the Arabs have been inclined to bend or ignore their boycott whenever there has been some product or service they need or want. Companies like TWA, IBM, Hilton International and General Electric have been able to deal with impunity with both the Arabs and Israel. Time Magazine reports the following with regard to the Arab "blacklist":

"The biggest headache for American businessman and politicians is the Arab blacklist of firms or individuals that supposedly have helped Israel in one way or another. Often, Arab buyers will ask an American company to certify that it does not do business, even in the U. S., with any blacklisted firm. In that way, American companies are pressured to discriminate against other American companies. Compliance with such requests may be morally reprehensible, but its legal status is murky. No U. S. law specifically forbids it, but the Government contends that complying with the blacklist may violate the Sher-

man Antitrust Act by restricting competition. Its contention has yet to be ruled on by the courts".

Anti-Boycott Legislation: There were two bills which, if passed, would weaken the Arab Boycott. One, sponsored by Senator Abraham Ribicoff, specifies that any U. S. corporation which has complied with any boycott not sanctioned by the U. S. could lose its foreign tax credits, its foreign tax deferrals and its export subsidies. This bill became the Tax Reform Act of 1976 around November 1.

The second bill was an amendment to the Export Administration Act, sponsored by Representative Benjamin Rosenthal. It would have prohibited any U. S. corporation from cooperating with the boycott, including supplying information. The bill would have imposed fines or imprisonment for each violation and provide for the suspension of export licenses. The bill would also have permitted lawsuits for triple damages. This bill was passed by the House but not by the Senate and is therefore dead, at least for now. This bill, an amendment to the Export Administration Act, would have had far-reaching effects. According to Forbes Magazine, especially vulnerable were the big U. S. engineering and construction companies—firms like Bechtel, Fluor, Ralph M. Parsons—that have undertaken to manage massive development projects in Saudi Arabia.

The Controversy within ASCE: The National Board of Direction of ASCE approved a position paper which states that the boycott problem is not one to be solved by the American businessman or by legislation but should be approached through normal diplomatic channels (as is now being done). Many reasons are given for this opposition, the primary ones are:

1. The planned construction programs in the oil-rich nations during the next 5 years are estimated to exceed \$200 billion.
2. The magnitude of the construction programs is attracting competition from competent international contractors on a world-wide basis.
3. U. S. contractors can successfully compete if not restricted by this proposed legislation. For example, the trade press reports that 39 of the larger U. S. contractors were awarded contracts in excess of \$7.5 billion in the Middle East in 1975.
4. U. S. contractors, when successful, purchase goods and services from the U. S. which will vastly improve our balance of payments and greatly contribute to the reduction of unemploy-

ment in construction and its allied fields.

5. It has been estimated that the adoption of legislation requiring all U. S. industry to refuse to adhere to the boycott provisions would result in the loss of 800,000 jobs throughout the U. S.

6. The boycott is imposed world-wide and no other country has legislated against it.

"The boycott and its related effects is a complex issue swayed by emotional considerations. We should not over-react and adopt punitive legislation that is clearly not in the best interest of our nation and all of its people. Congress should not mandate a policy of confrontation which would work to the detriment of U. S. interest".

After the National ASCE position paper was approved, our local Section became aware that a position on a very controversial issue was adopted by ASCE. The Philadelphia Section has asked the National Board to rescind its approval of the anti-boycott position paper for several reasons. The position paper on this issue was not published in media normally available to Society members. The preparation of the paper seemed to be hastily done, with little opportunity for discussion or input by local Sections or individual members. This resolution, approved unanimously by the Philadelphia Section Board, also asserted that the National Board's position "suggests that the American Society of Civil Engineers may be prepared to compromise fundamental principles of fairness and equal opportunity in order to secure pecuniary advantage for some members of the engineering profession". Our local Section, in its resolution, also asked that full disclosure be made of issues raised, and the positions under consideration, on this boycott issue and on all future political matters, so that local Sections and individuals can participate in formulating an official position.

Interim guidelines by the Treasury Department, under the Tax Reform Act, appear to permit U. S. firms to comply with the most common types of Arab boycott requests without incurring the loss of any tax benefits. Final guidelines, to be published next Spring by the new Treasury Secretary, are expected to be tougher.

National ASCE may or may not have had some influence on these two controversial bills. However, the National Board's handling of the situation has caused a stir, not just in Philadelphia, but in other local Sections.