

## Guest Editorial

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The United States Postal Service has indicated that it plans to increase postage rates on scientific journals that have a policy of paging charges, even in those instances when such payment is voluntary. More serious than an increase in postal rates is the interpretation by the Postal Service that the policy of paging charges constitutes a form of paid advertising. As a result of that interpretation each page of a scientific article would be required to carry the word "advertisement."

These two changes are a result of the Postal Service's intent to enforce a regulation contained in Title 39, section 4367 of the US Code. This regulation has been in force for 60 years, but the Postal Service has decided only recently to proceed with its enforcement.

Indications of the intent of the Postal Service were presented in the October 18, 1976 issue of *Chemical and Engineering News*. They stated that two scientific journals, *Plant Physiology* and the *Astrophysical Journal*, had received notice that they were in conflict with Title 39, Section 4367 of the US Code. Why these journals were selected among the many that have policies of paging charges is not clear.

Although an increase in the postage rate

(currently a preferential second class nonprofit rate) for the *Journal* would cause financial problems for the IADR and the AADR, placement of the word "advertisement" on each page of the *Journal of Dental Research* is of much more fundamental concern to the Association. I doubt that any of the authors of scientific papers in the *Journal of Dental Research* consider them advertisements. The increase in postage rate could be tolerated, but the paging charges policy would be doomed because scientists would refuse to submit manuscripts to journals that were required to use the label "advertisement."

It is not certain at this time how far the Postal Service intends to go with the enforcement of their current interpretation of Title 39, Section 4367. It would be to the benefit of the Association for members to oppose vigorously this interpretation by expressing your concern to your Congressmen and to the Postmaster General of the US Postal Service.

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### ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with regret that we report the death of a former editor of the *Journal*, Theodor Rosebury, D.D.S. (born 1904; died Nov. 25, 1976).