

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION PROGRAM IN MATHEMATICS

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I am very happy to have this opportunity of meeting with the members of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America here in our neighbor-city, Baltimore.

The Foundation considers itself fortunate indeed in the advice and assistance we have had and are enjoying from members of this group. As you know, Professor Marston Morse is one of the twenty-four members of the National Science Board. Professor William Duren of Tulane University was most helpful in the initial planning of our mathematics program. We are pleased to have as program director for mathematics, your colleague, Dr. Leon Cohen, who came to us this year from Queens College, where he had been Associate Professor of Mathematics since 1947. Dr. Cohen has been with us only a few months and in that time he has made real progress toward the development of a National Science Foundation program in mathematics. Perhaps it may interest you to know something of that program. NSF activities in the field fall in several categories: conferences, institutes, grants, research seminars, the regional development of mathematics, support of publications, fellowship support.

Last May a Conference on Fiber Bundles and Differential Geometry was held at Cornell University, under the chairmanship of Dr. Norman Steenrod of Princeton. As you know, the Foundation sponsored, jointly with the American Mathematical Society, the Summer Institute on Lie Groups and Lie Algebras at Colby College, under the chairmanship of Dr. Nathan Jacobson of Yale University. I believe I am correct in saying that there was considerable enthusiasm for this institute as well as the hope that it may be the first in a series. It is my understanding that plans are now under way for a second summer institute on the functions of several complex variables, under the leadership of Dr. Salomon Bochner of Princeton.

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