

Editorial

Increased interest in climate, partially related to concerns over potential climatic changes occurring in the 1970's, led to the National Climate Program Act in 1978. The ensuing National Climate Program Plan of 1980 identified three key areas for top national priority. One of these top priority areas concerns the impacts of climate on man and his environment, and another concerns the dissemination and use of climate data and information.

A timely conference was arranged in 1980 as a forum to address these two topical areas. This was the AMS-sponsored *Conference on Climatic Impacts and Societal Response*, convened in Milwaukee in August 1980. There were 40 papers presented. The generally high quality and breadth of these papers, coupled with the great national interest in applied climatology, led the Chief Editors of the *Journal of Applied Meteorology* to conclude that part of an issue of the *Journal* should be devoted to presentation of papers from that conference. Authors of all papers at the 1980 Conference were encouraged to submit their paper(s) to the *Journal* for standard peer review.

Approximately 20 papers were submitted for consideration. Some were rejected and many of those accepted for publication appear in this issue. A few others will undoubtedly appear in later issues, but a collection of 11 papers has been identified and deserves publication now to bring forth timely results and information. The papers in the first section of this issue present an interesting diversity of activities and results and they help illustrate the wide dimensions of applied climatology.