The Responsibilities of Membership

President Kennedy’s resounding challenge “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country!” has its counterpart in all phases of man’s activities. From that most intimate and fundamental unit of society, the home, to the international and global scene, the most gratifying benefits and rewards accrue not to those who seek them, but to those who strive to serve. In every endeavor the man who asks “What’s in it for me?” finds the least in it for him.

The AMS makes relatively small demands on its members. The annual dues and adherence to its principles and code of ethics are the only requirements made of all members. Those of us who serve on committees, boards, commissions, the Council, or as officers are indeed privileged in view of the small fraction of the membership who can do so.

The benefits for any individual member may also be small or intangible. For many members the publications, the chapter meetings, the scientific and technical meetings, and the sense of unity with those of similar interests are adequate repayment for their modest investment. For some the availability of the guidance service or the employment service may render a direct and personal benefit. But for all, the knowledge that they are supporting the activities of the society in the dissemination of meteorological knowledge, the promotion of meteorological research, and the maintenance of professional standards constitute the primary reason for belonging to the society.

Why do I make this point at this time? It is because the Council has recognized, at its meeting in January, that all members will have to do more for the Society, if the Society is to continue to meet its responsibilities. Beginning next year the dues will be materially higher for all categories of individual membership. The increase has been deferred longer than it should have, and one consequence is that the increase is per- cantually fairly large.¹

The Professional Member who has been get-

¹ The new dues patterns are published in the Minutes of the Council, page 314.

² Editor’s Note.—Since 1946 membership has increased 3½-fold, mailing and postage expenses 16-fold and printing expenses 30-fold.