(All languages are frozen,
but some are more frozen than others)

You should all have received your copy of the Revised Report on the
Algorithmic Language ALGOL 68, distributed as a Supplement to AB 36 by
courtesy of the University of Alberta (at least, those of you who had paid your
subscriptions by the beginning of March should have done so - the rest may
have to wait a little longer). Negotiations are now in hand to have the Revised
Report published in various journals, as was done in the case of ALGOL 60, and
it can be reported that it will definitely appear in Acta Informatica.

At the back of this issue you will find a rather large set of Errata to
the Revised Report. Please get out your copy and elaborate them therein. It
is absolutely vital that all copies of the Report be corrected at least with
those errata listed as being in "Category A". It will only take you a couple
of hours, so please make it two hours today, and not two hours tomorrow. You
will find that most of it can be done with a pair of scissors and a pot of paste.

Now you may well ask "Why so many Errata so soon?" For answer, we refer
you to the Report of the Subcommittee on ALGOL 68 Support elsewhere in this
issue. At its meeting in Cambridge from April 7 - 10th there was considerable
discussion of the transput section of the Revised Report. Various difficulties
had come to light, mostly concerned with what should happen when certain obscure
sequences of events (such as line ended) were associated with not particularly
helpful event routines. Since the bulk of the problems were associated with
one section (10.3.1.6) of the Report, it was decided to rewrite this section,
resulting in a much cleaner set of concepts. The only other significant change
concerns the name yielded by a trimmed slice (see AB 36.3.1.C69). Implementation
difficulties were reported, and it is now therefore undefined whether the name
yielded by such a slice is a new name or not. The question is hardly of
importance in practical use, and the implementor now has complete discretion to
do whatever causes least inefficiency in the normal cases.

Other matters discussed at the Cambridge meeting of the Support Subcommittee
concerned future enhancements to sublanguages of ALGOL 68. You will find some
of the proposals described in the papers AB37.4.1, 2, 3 and 4 in this issue.
These will all be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of WG2.1. However,
much of the time at that meeting will, we hope, be spent in taking a critical
look at the whole field of high level language design, in order to establish
what directions ought to be taken in future work. Progress will be reported
in future issues of the AB.

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