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Letter from the Editor

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers:

Worldwide recessions can have interesting effects on science, science directions, and the survival of journals. On this side of the Atlantic, we have no shortage of prophets and no shortage of conflicting predictions. We hear constant comparisons to the “Great Depression of the 1930s” (which began in the 1920s in Europe!), but even if true, science has changed in many ways since 1929. In the United States, there was no government support of research except for agriculture prior to approximately 1950. Certainly, there was some small support from industry and some scientists had support the way fine artists did but no large grants. Post-graduate students in chemistry often used their own money to buy supplies for their doctoral work! There was no wide-use of chromatography, no digital computers, no magnetic resonance instruments, no routine spectrometers that we take for granted these days. Yet, work that earned the Nobel Prize was done or at least begun. If the economy never recovers to the golden years will science survive without the millions in support that a Prize might require?

On a happier note, the promised issue devoted to the 50th anniversary of the Nobel for polarography is on time and will fill the next issue. It may be a double issue in the sense of pages used and your Editor is delighted to have it.

Will we need to find new directions for measurement science and, if so, what directions will we take? I could try to say what I think will be the new adventures but won't yet. I look forward to hearing from those with better crystal ball ability. Thanks to those who continue to help build *Critical Reviews in Analytical Chemistry* every year!

C. H. Lochmüller
Editor-in-Chief

