

such as coal combustors, magnets, and channels.

In testimony before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources April 30, Dr. George Seikel, the manager of MHD Systems at the Lewis Research Center run by NASA, stated: "It is in the nation's long-range economic interest to retain our international coal-fired MHD leadership by maintaining a critical core of MHD support and participation of the utility industry, suppliers of equipment to that industry, research and development organizations specializing in energy R&D, and universities. . . . Reassembly of such a team and the necessary facility investment by industry and government would be difficult and costly," if the program were temporarily halted due to budget constraints, he warned.

"Although high in payoff potential," Seikel continued, "the long term and high risk of MHD R&D are such that government involvement will be required through 'proof-of-concept.' MHD thus directly meets the OMB criteria for energy R&D support. An MHD Users Group has been formed and interest has been expressed in supporting MHD demonstration plants if an adequate technology base is first established."

At the 19th engineering symposium, Dr. Heinz Pfeiffer, the keynote speaker, addressed directly this question of broader-based support for the MHD program. Pfeiffer is the head of the utility users group formed after the threatened elimination of the MHD program, and he represents Pennsylvania Power and Light. He reported that more than a dozen electric utilities were involved in the potential users group that lobbied for the MHD program, but he chastised the MHD researchers present for not taking "the information and potential value of MHD to decision-makers."

"At Pennsylvania Power and Light we are using the results from MHD coal-slagging studies now in our coal-burning plants," he said. "This can be used by other utilities. Coal combustor development work in MHD can be applied in the electrical industry which already burns coal, and in the synthetic fuels, steel, and chemical industries. The applications today for MHD technology should be brought out, in general.

"If the transition team had known about these technical accomplishments in the program, the budget wouldn't have been zero," Pfeiffer concluded.

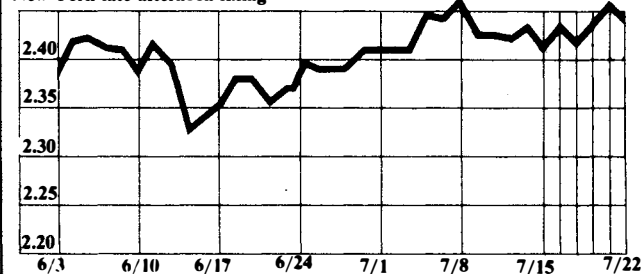
One utility, Montana Power Company, has offered to donate land and a new conventional coal plant to be hooked up to an experimental MHD unit if the Department of Energy comes up with the financing for the MHD generator.

How soon the U.S. MHD program completes the research and development phase and goes on to build commercial power plants now depends largely on the amount of financial support that can be mobilized for the program.

## Currency Rates

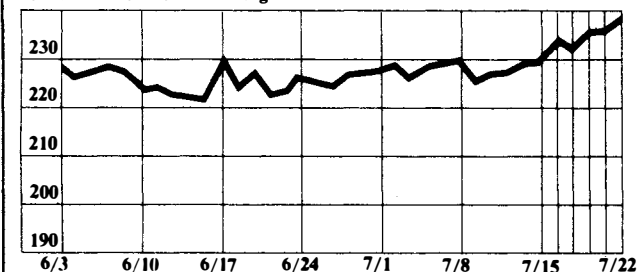
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



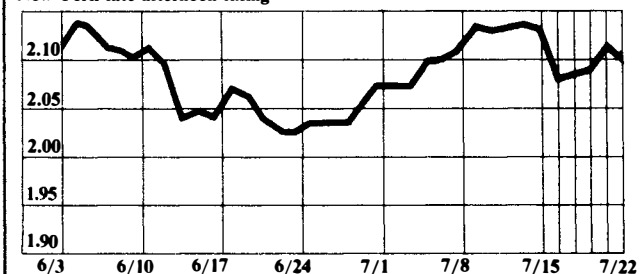
### The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



### The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



### The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing

