Report of the April meeting of the Iowa Section off
the Mathematical Association of America, 1971

The fifty-eighth regular meeting of the Iowa
section of the Mathematical Association of America was
held at Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa on April 23, 1971,
Chairman Timothy Robertson presiding.   Total attendance
was fifty four including forty one members of the Assoc-
iation.

The meeting opened with the report that Robert V. Hogg,
State University of Iowa, was elected as Governor for the
Iowa Section, and that Joseph Zimmerman, Hoover High,
Des Moines, was selected for the annual Outstanding Teacher
Award.   Report of the Treasurer indicated an income of
$70.00 allotment from the National office and a total
expenditure of $12.00, leaving a balance of $149.84.
The following officers were elected:

Chairman, George Peglar, Iowa State University,
Ames, Iowa

Vice-Chairman, Joseph Hoffert, Drake University,
Des Moines, Iowa

Secretary-Treasure, Basil Gillam, Drake Univ-
ersity, Des Moines, Iowa

The program consisted of two sessions, one in the
morning followed the business meeting and adjourned at
10:50 A. M., and the afternoon session wash held from
1:30 - 4:00 P. M.   The morning session consisted of one
paper:

Introducing Mathematicians to some problems in robust
estimation, Robert V. Hogg, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

In the classical theory of estimation of parameters,
the models for the probability distributions are usually
restrictive enough to provide (asymptotic) efficient esti-
mators of the parameters. After reviewing this theory, a
more practical situation is considered. Being very real
istic, broader models are used, only to find that efficient
estimators no longer exist.   Procedures are then presented
that yield good estimators of the parameters of these
expanded models. Since these estimators are satisfactory
for a large class of distributions, they are described as
being robust.

The afternoon session consisted of an invited address
and a panel discussion.

Shapes of the future, Victor Klee, University of Washington,
Seattle, Wa.

Some interesting, easily stated, practical geometric problems concerning constant diameter sets were discussed and unanswered questions associated with the problems were posed.

Panel discussion on accreditation and certification, William Waltmann, Wartburg College; Merlin Fisher, Iowa Central Community College; Marian Cornwall, Marshalltown Community College; E. W. Hamilton, University of Northern Iowa,

Advantages and disadvantages of accreditation and/or certification were considered from the viewpoint of the J Junior College and the Senior College.

A questionnaire had previously been circulated, with very few returns. The members present were asked to complete the questionnaire after hearing the discussion. A resume of the completed questionnaires indicated that the Iowa section of the Mathematical Association of America is very much opposed to any activity of the Association concerning these questions.