become, I asked myself if it was worth the effort to try to compete with that systyem --- if there was any point in continuing to revise this book so that other people could skim the profits off my intellectual work and creativity, leaving me with little to show for my efforts.

To try to answer that question, I decided to sort out my financial rewards on a per-hour basis, and then went back over my 1988 work schedule to total up the time that I spent preparing the 1989 revised edition. This included basic manuscript preparation, going over galleys, preparing front matter, and so on. I discovered that if I took the entire royalties I earned from the previous edition as an estimate of probable return, and divided by the number of hours that went into the current revision, I had worked for *less than the minimum wage.*

I made my decision. The book will never again be revised. It is simply not worth it. I don't care if it is used world-wide; authors of this kind of book should not be paid at a rate equivalent to that received by unskilled teen-agers in entry-level jobs. After five editions the book has ceased to be a labor of love, and whatever prestige it brought will not meet the mortgage payment. I can make more money per hour – spent by mowing my neighbor's lawns, or serving hamburgers in the local fast food joint.

More important than my personal decision, I suspect that other authors of works that have been important in advanced programs of study are going to come to the same conclusion. It takes no great insight to see that the result will be a decline in the number of advanced books that are written, as well as in the number that are carefully revised. Since our politicians seem unwilling or unable to provide any protection for authors from this kind of exploitation, the lesson seems clear: Profits to the bookstore are more important than the quality of the textbooks available to students in our most advanced programs. Therefore, do you have any lawns that need mowing?

TAA SPONSORS CALCULUS PANEL AT MAA CONVENTION

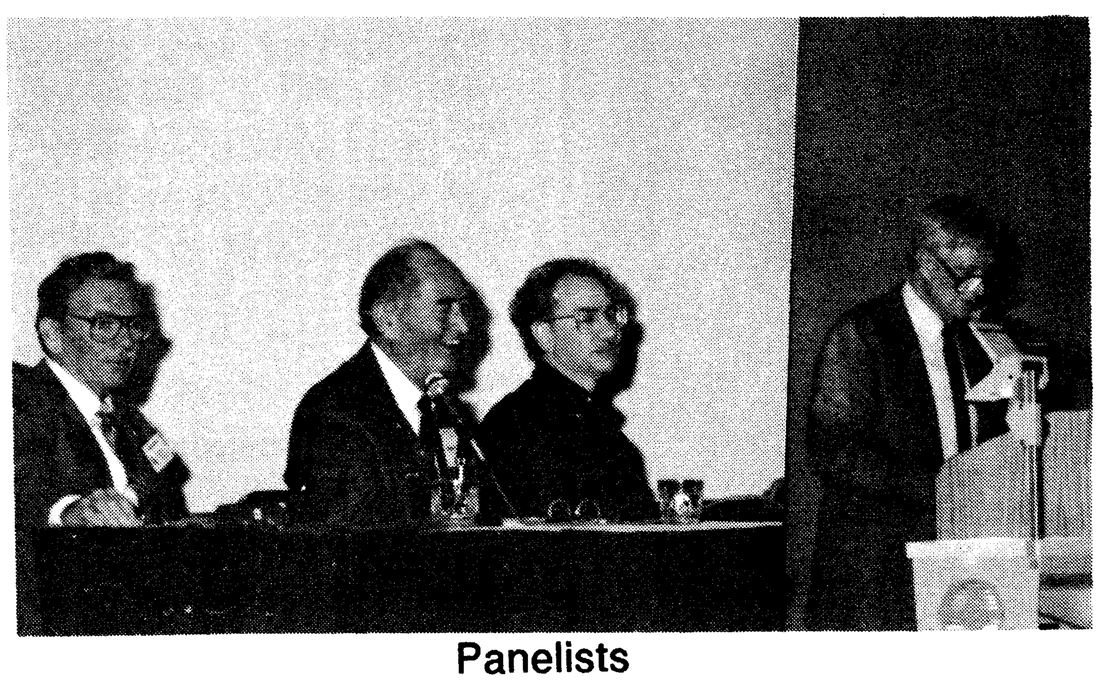
A Model For Other TAA Activity

Seven well known mathematics authors spoke at the annual convention of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), January 19 in Louisville, Kentucky. Two other panelists presented viewpoints of publishers and Advanced Placement. All of the mathematics authors on the panel, which was sponsored by TAA, are TAA members. Additionally, six more calculus authors who are also TAA members handled the microphones on the floor. The panel marked the first occasion on which TAA sponsored a session, *per se*, at a convention of another organization and the success of the activity indicates that it should be repeated at conventions of other associations.

The panelists addressed themselves to an issue timely in the mathematical community *Calculus Texts In a Time of Reform.* The session was well attended, the audience numbering about 300. The panel was organized and chaired by Louis Leithold, of Pepperdine University. The other panelists, in the order of their appearance, were

- Mike Keedy, TAA President
- George B. Thomas, Jr. Emeritus, MIT
- Howard Anton, Adjunct, Drexel University
- James F. Hurley, University of Connecticut (Presented *in absentia*)
- Earl W. Swokowski, Emeritus, Marquette University
- Margaret L. Lial, American River College
- David P. Geggis, PWS-Kent Publishing Co.
- George Rosenstein, Franklin & Marshall College and Advanced Placement

continued on page 18



Panelists

Keedy Thomas Anton Leithold

Swokowski Lial Geggis Rosenstein