

Newly-elected president Holman, outgoing president Norris deliver speeches during Mexico City Meeting

R.T. Holman, newly-installed AOCS president, read the following speech during the inaugural luncheon May 1 at the Spring Meeting in Mexico City.

Thank you for the honor that brings me to this podium today. I am grateful for the confidence in me which you have expressed by electing me to this office. Thanks are also due to my wife, family and close associates. Their patience and encouragement in my life's work have made possible this service to our Society. May I take a few minutes to speak to you about our Society and its future, to share a vision with you.

I am a biochemist whose interest turned to lipids by accident and default. After choosing to do my Ph.D. work with a famous lipid scientist, but resolving not to become involved with the chemistry of grease, I was brought to an abrupt halt in my research on the metabolism of sugar using heavy carbon trace by the war-time closing of the physics laboratory upon which my thesis work would depend. I capitulated, asked my professor for a problem in lipids, and have been pleased ever since with the direction he gave me. God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform!

In our laboratory *Oil and Soap* was required reading, and we published some of our studies in that journal. When I had my diploma and was ready to enter the professional world, it was natural that I attend my first scientific meeting with the AOCS in Chicago in the fall of 1945. There may have been a few hundred people in attendance, and of these I recognized the names of only three or four from the literature. There were very few young people present. Through the rather sparse technical sessions, I met a few scientists in my field of interest, and I became hooked on the AOCS.

Since that meeting we have come a long, long way. Our Society changed the name of its journal that year to give it a better image. Our Society has had joint meetings with other societies to our mutual benefit. Our membership has become international. The AOCS became the best forum in North America for lipid biochemistry. We have held two of our regular meetings in Canada and this week we met in Mexico for the first time. A program to interest students in our Society was created and grew. Our Society makes annually the most prestigious award in lipid science. The January issue of the *JAOCs* was devoted to the proceedings of a conference on soy proteins held in Europe. Our Society has proven to be flexible and it has a diverse and far-flung membership. It is the scientific home for many industries, government laboratories and academic investigators.

The unifying interest among us is our interest in lipids, the oily, greasy, water-insoluble substances found in the membranes and particles of all cells, and on whose surfaces the chemistry of life really takes place. Lipids are necessary to life, they are essential components of the machinery for living, and they are fuel for the machine. The biochemists tinker with the machinery, the industry sells the fuel. Our knowledge of these substances is very new and very meager, and the science of lipids, fats and oils is really a frontier science. This is where the action is, and where the action will be, and our Society has a golden opportunity for lead-

ership in the coming decades. The AOCS can be the focal point for coming developments and discoveries in this area, or not, as it chooses. Our industries must reckon with the discoveries which will emerge either here or elsewhere. To remain viable economically, they must keep up with the times. To keep up with the times, we must grasp opportunities. Let it happen here, so that we may have the advantage of early knowledge.

But in the past decade there have been increasing rumblings within our Society, dissatisfaction developing between the two most recognizable groups. The academically-oriented people who recently have discovered this Society to be good don't exactly feel welcome. They want our meetings to be more scientific. They note that the audiences in the technical sessions are often smaller than those in the hospitality suites. They find that membership and attendance at our meetings are becoming very expensive at a time when academic and government travel funds are diminished sharply. But they come here and they send their students because this Society is still the best home for them. Yet they are not well integrated into the whole.

The industrial membership has noticed the influx of new members and the program they bring, and mumbles that the biochemists are taking over. The practical-minded membership considers the biochemists too way out theoretical. There is little in the biochemical program to interest our industrial people. The Society isn't what it used to be.

I look upon the present discontent as an encouraging opportunity, for feelings are being made known. If we are communicating, we are still together. Unity despite diversity is really strength. We must remember that we need not be made uniform to enjoy unity. In my campaign statement a year ago, I promised if elected to maintain and enhance our standards, and to strengthen programs and services to all interest groups within our Society, and in so doing, to maximize the service of AOCS to the scientific community and to mankind. I assume that this promise had some bearing upon my election and that this is what you want too. Therefore, in this my first official act as President of the AOCS, I have begun to keep that promise by addressing the matter of our discontent. I regret that this requires some plain speaking.

To the local sections of our Society, the Governing Board offers a plan of reorganization which provides you a stronger voice in our councils. We shall revive the practice to keep in contact through annual visits of officers to each local section. We want your input into AOCS plans and programs, and we want your parent society to be a part of your plans and programs.

To relieve the financial and time burdens upon its members, and to improve attendance and program quality at our national meetings, we plan to hold one annual national meeting, in the fall of the year. This may disappoint some of us, but it is the considered judgment of many of our active leadership. The next step requires an amendment of the bylaws which must be approved by the membership.

To the academic group within our Society, I pledge my efforts to strengthen the technical program in lipids, making it worthwhile for more of you to attend our meetings. I remind you that this is a Society of diverse groups, and that

the industrial members are the firm economic base upon which you are able to build the forum for discussion of lipids and the publication of your work. The needs of our industrial members must also be met. We need each other. You should make the acquaintance of our industrial colleagues and learn that they have problems too.

To the industrial members of our Society, I bring assurance that the biochemists will not take over our Society, unless you continue to neglect your responsibility. The biochemists have dominated the technical program at times only because you were not offering papers for the program. It is not reasonable that you who are 75% of the membership provide only 25% of the program and then complain that the minority is taking over. You still have the vote, and although occasionally a professor becomes president, we academic types are a minority of the Governing Board, and presidents last only one year. Moreover, there is really no reason for you *so* to fear the academic. Remember that you were academic just before you became industrial. You need them as much as they need you. They prattle about theories and minutia that will loom to be your problems a decade from now. It would be wise to listen now.

To redress some of the inequities and deficiencies which have led to our valley of discontent, may I made some suggestions? Stimulate good technical program in both practical and theoretical areas by devices which reward the presentation and publication of the best scientific work. We shall stimulate participation of students in our program by offering equal numbers of Honored Student Awards in fats and oils chemistry and technology and in lipid science, making the awards more competitive, and scheduling the students' papers in our technical sessions. Let us stimulate the programs of our local sections by sponsoring lecturers at their meetings. Let us sponsor new forms of education which will generate trained personnel for the industry and offer our membership training in new fields. Let us bring our Official and Tentative Methods up to date. Let us encourage our technical committees concerned with promulgating uniform methods of analysis for the industry. Let us consider how we might stimulate grants for research in fats, oils and lipids. But above all, let us stimulate individual participation in Society activities. This Society is run by its members. All of its committees are open for anyone to attend and be heard. The working committees need and welcome interested members. Pick your favorite committee and volunteer. Don't complain about the Society—get involved in improving it. This is a good Society, and let us cooperate to make it better. No man is an island, no group stands alone. Let us support each other, and together help make our Society grow and our science prosper. To this end, I pledge you my best.

Outgoing president F.A. Norris delivered the following speech during the inaugural luncheon May 1 at the 1974 Spring Meeting in Mexico City.

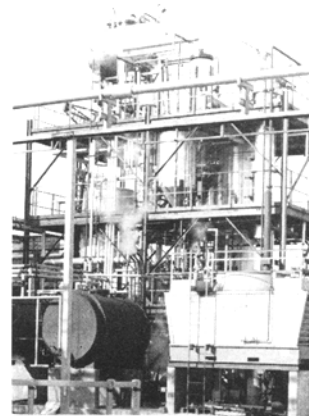
It seems but a short time since I stood before you in New Orleans and took over the gavel from our late president, Bob O'Connor. It has been a good year for the AOCS, thanks to many dedicated people who contributed unstintingly of their talents to advance the objectives of the society.

Since I lean toward the business end of things, let me first stress our financial status. This past year we were in the black approximately \$40,000, an all-time high and a far cry from the years when we strove hard to merely break even. Moreover, thanks to our executive director, Jim Lyon, and our treasurer, Joe Endres, we are now on an accounting basis that is both simple and more accurate. We know better than ever the cost of running the Society,

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where our dollars go, and what you, as members get for your money. We can plan intelligently for the future knowing what current costs and revenues are and projecting how they may be expected to change with changing conditions—this has to be progress! Recently our Society was able to pay an additional \$20,000 towards the mortgage on our new AOCS office in Champaign, considerably shortening the period before we will be debt free with more money to spend on professional matters.

Membership which has been static or dropping in recent years is now expanding largely as the result of a concerted membership drive originated and spearheaded by Jim Lyon. I'm sure I need not elaborate on the President's Club and Honor Roll which gave much deserved recognition to individuals who brought in one or more members and capitalized on the personal touch that no letters or ad solicitations can match.

In all 302 new members joined our ranks in 1973, approximately a 12% increase—the first net increase since 1966. Incidentally the grand prize for last year (determined by a drawing at the Chicago meeting in which each worker had one chance per new member he or she obtained), transportation to the Mexico City meeting, was won by Emmet Russey, second prize, 3-nights lodging in Mexico City, was won by Rex Sims, and third prize, free registration for this meeting, was won by Fred Barrett who could not attend and will make use of the prize later.

Of course we are not just looking for members, but rather for people who can contribute to the value that each individual gets from his or her association with the AOCS. This is why we want to bring in groups with kindred interest, so we can all profit professionally from the planned expansion.

As an example, in January the *JAACS* published the

complete proceedings (160 pages) of the World Soy Protein Conference sponsored by the American Soybean Association and held in Munich in November, 1973. The major portion of the preparatory work of negotiating an agreement with the ASA, collecting manuscripts, and in many cases, writing abstracts, fell on Dick Baldwin's shoulders. Production was handled by the Champaign staff. Our publication of the proceedings gave the ASA an immediate circulation of about 6,000 copies to 60 countries at low cost, while at the same time publicizing the AOCS and its services to a large body of individuals with interests rather closely allied to our. (Moreover, we expect to gain \$8-10,000 more than an average January issue.)

A 1973-74 membership directory was mailed to all members in January. In the future, the plans are to publish the directory every other year and to update it in alternate years merely by insertion of the appropriate pages from the *Journal*. This will lower costs considerably (we anticipate \$10-13,000 every other year). This year the cost of the Directory was less than \$10,000, as compared to \$11,000 one year ago, even taking into account a one-third write-off of conversion costs. In addition, advertising revenue was up \$1,000 more than last year.

For many years the AOCS has certified a number of highly skilled independent oil chemists who are qualified to act as a referee between buyer and seller in cases where agreement on analyses can not be obtained. This program is familiar to some of you but to others, especially those outside our society who might use this service, the program is unknown or little understood. Summarized briefly, referee chemists must participate in the Smalley Check Sample Program in their areas of expertise and must have their laboratories inspected and approved by the Examination Board, headed by Ed Hahn.

A total of 78 referee chemists was certified in 1973-74. As soon as a group for 1974-75 is certified, a brochure is planned describing the program and listing the referees.

Chang elected IFT Fellow at New Orleans meeting

AOCS past president and active member Stephen S. Chang was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists at its 34th annual meeting last month in New Orleans.

Change is a professor in the department of food science at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. ■

Liquid Carbonic to construct new CO₂ recovery plant

Liquid Carbonic Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Houston Natural Gas Corporation, announced it will construct and operate a new 200-ton/day byproduct carbon dioxide recovery plant in Terre Haute, Ind. The plant will be located adjacent to an existing ammonia plant of CF Industries, Inc., and will purify and liquefy gaseous carbon dioxide produced as a byproduct of CF Industries' operations. Completion is expected by December, 1974.

Liquid carbon dioxide produced at the Terre Haute facilities will be distributed through the midwest for use in fire fighting, beverage carbonation, and chilling and freezing of poultry, meat, fish and prepared entrees. It also will be used for the manufacture of dry ice.

Liquid Carbonic was founded in Terre Haute in 1888. The company now produces and markets carbon dioxide, other industrial, medical and specialty gasses and related equipment and supplies throughout the Western Hemisphere, in Europe and in the Orient. ■

This will be mailed to appropriate firms. Information indicates that in the past the Society did not get adequate recognition for—and many firms were not aware of—this service of the AOCS. We should capitalize on this valuable function.

Monographs are very useful in this day of specialization yet have proved to be difficult undertakings for both author and publisher. On the other hand, the AOCS has the necessary expertise and facilities to do this job authoritatively and efficiently while at the same time getting the society better known among investigators in ours and related fields.

Our first monograph on tumor lipids was published last year at which promises to be a better than breakeven with costs. A second monograph on the analysis of lipids and lipoproteins is expected to be published by fall.

Our two looseleaf binders of Official Methods were edited and updated into a new two-volume set incorporating the latest changes in methodology through 1973. You need no longer worry whether or not your looseleaf holder is missing sheets as it becomes dog-eared through continued use by more than one person in the laboratory. Yearly updating will, of course, be continued. Also, we hope to increase the number of official methods by development of new methods and with the adoption of pertinent methods already developed and tested by other scientific societies.

Many projects are as yet incomplete but still "in the works." For example, we are again studying the question of the value of one vs two technical meetings per year. We do not want to perpetuate past policies unless they satisfy a need which today may be quite different from that of some years ago. In 1963, we evaluated this and turned down the one meeting per year idea—but what about today? We are attempting to revitalize our committees by encouraging greater participation, providing more opportunity for leadership, and, where possible, assisting by clearly delineating areas of responsibility, and setting long and short term objectives. (How can you plot a course without a destination in mind?) In several cases, we need to fill gaps created by the retirement of chairmen and members who have served the society faithfully for many years.

Recent conversations with a cross-section of industrial members have uncovered a number of complaints and suggestions which are being carefully evaluated for correction and/or implementation. One of these sessions is planned during this meeting. This is just the beginning of a program aimed at making the society more responsive to the needs of all its members.

Strong local sections help to make a strong society. We are in the admittedly difficult process of promoting better liaison with these sections to assist them in their work and to encourage them to provide a more frequent forum for the exchange of technical information and ideas.

For some time now, the AOCS Foundation has been breaking out of its shell to try its wings. You will hear more about this later in the program. This is perhaps the most difficult undertaking ever attempted by the AOCS with many intangibles difficult to coordinate and promote. To date, the results do not nearly match the tremendous effort put in by several members who have nurtured this project from the beginning or almost so. I think we are now on the way!

In conclusion, I would like to say that while this has been a good year it has had its sad aspects. At the spring meeting last year, your president Bob O'Connor read the names of some of our members who passed away during his term of office. At that time no one thought that Bob would be listed among the missing at this spring meeting. Let us all stand for a moment in silent prayer to the memory of our immediate past president and those other members who have departed from us during the past year. ■