

Presidents discuss Society's



R.T. Holman

My experience as President of the American Oil Chemists' Society began with a thought provoking announcement. A routine factual news release from our Institute to the local news media was prepared to announce that I was to go to Mexico to become President. True to its tradition for accuracy and its desire for all the truth, the press printed a story which had crucial lines missing and which stated that Holman was to become president of AOCS which is a society consisting of 3 members. The next morning I received a note from a colleague which inquired:

I know about you
I know about me
But who in -----*
Is number three?

The following day he received my reply:

Together with you,
In addition to me,
We the body politic, free,
Are the lowly trinity.

I am pleased to announced that in this past year the membership of our Society has risen to 3156. This is a true increase of 129, bringing us very close to our all time high in membership.

It has been a good year for the Society in many other ways. We are operating our two journals efficiently and in a fiscally sound manner. The Society's second monograph, on *Analysis of Lipids and Lipoproteins*, is soon to be off the press. Our new computerized membership directory was issued this year. We have distributed 13,000 copies of the special issue of *JAOCs* containing the proceedings of the conference on soy protein technology. A new edition of our *AOCS Methods* was issued. We held our national meeting in a non-English speaking country for the first time. Our last meeting in historic Philadelphia was successful from both program and fiscal points of view. The Society's operation as a whole was profitable for the third consecutive year in a time of economic difficulty.

We are now deep in the planning of the World Conference on Oilseed and Vegetable Oil Processing Technology, to be held under AOCS sponsorship March 1-5, 1976, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

*Expletive deleted out of deference to the nature of our Society.

Relationships between local sections and the parent society have been made the task of a new Local Sections Committee, whose membership consists of the officers of the local sections. The President has visited all four of the active local sections this year, implementing the new policy that a national officer visit each local section each year. My impression is that this is a good policy, for the visits have generated a great deal of fruitful discussion.

This year, our Society has made a far-reaching decision to change our schedule of national meetings. The ad hoc committee formed to study the matter recommended one meeting a year, the Governing Board approved the recommendation, and the membership voted 2 to 1 in favor of one meeting a year. The Meetings Planning Committee and the Governing Board are now evaluating alternative seasons for that one meeting. The shift to one meeting a year will require a change of habits for all of us, but this can be a stimulus to greater efficiency on the part of our committees and our members during the lengthened interim between our meetings. New ways will be found to ensure that the essential business of the Society will be conducted around the year, rather than twice a year at the national meetings.

It has been a good year, and I have enjoyed serving the Society as its officer. I must confess that I shall also enjoy serving the Society next year, somewhat more in the role of an observer.

Ralph T. Holman
President, 1974-75



W.E. Link

I didn't realize, when I joined AOCS 20 years ago, that someday I would be in this position. Over the years, I had become accustomed to attending the awards luncheon and comfortably listening to the speakers with speculation and anticipation. Now that the roles are reversed, I think you know exactly how I feel—much like the dachshund whose emotions took so long to move from his head to his tail that his tail was still wagging while his eyes were filled with apprehension at some new development. This may be an exaggeration, but while I am grateful and happy to be chosen to serve you, I am slowly realizing, with some dismay, the responsibility that goes with the office.

The problem that I would like to discuss with you for a few minutes is a simple one but one for which answers are not readily available. The fundamental question is this: What is wrong with our Society, and is this typical of technical societies everywhere?