

Call for nominations

Award of Merit

The Society's Award of Merit is to be presented to qualified Society members at the 70th Annual Spring Meeting, New York, NY, May 8-11, 1977.

The Award is given to recognize current and past achievements in serving the Society:

- (a) Active productive service to AOCs committee work.
- (b) Market leadership in technical, administrative or special committee or Society activities.
- (c) Outstanding activity or service that has particularly advanced the Society's prestige, standing, or interest.
- (d) Any distinguished service to the Society excluding elective office not herein otherwise specifically provided for.

Past winners of the Award of Merit include: W.T. Coleman and D.L. Henry, 1969; R.T. Doughtie and R.A. Burns, 1970; E. Jungermann, 1971; D.S. Bolley and T.J. Potts, 1972; A. Rose and E.R. Hahn, 1973; and R.A. Reiners and R.G. Krishnamurthy, 1974; L.S. Crauer and H.G. Salomon, 1975; M.E. Whitten and S.F. Herb, 1976.

Nominations should cite the record of the nominee which qualifies him for the Award. Two copies of the nomination should be submitted to: Arthur E. Waltking, Manager, Analytical Services, Best Foods Research Center, Box 1534, 1120 Commerce Ave., Union, New Jersey 07083, before February 15, 1977.

Robert D. Swisher Gold Medal winner



AOCs member Robert D. Swisher has received the 1976 SOCMA Gold Medal for outstanding work in environmental chemistry.

Dr. Swisher, a consultant with the Monsanto Company in St. Louis, MO, received the medal and a \$1,000 honorarium during an October meeting of the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association (SOCMA).

"Environmental problems from the foaming and fish toxicity characteristics of detergent formulations of several years ago were solved by Dr. Swisher's keen insight and experimental work proving the importance of chemical structure on the biodegradation characteristics of organic compounds," SOCMA said in announcing the award.

"Dr. Swisher's work predicted the environmental success of the detergent industry's changing formulation from branch chained compounds to straight chain compounds. The principles he demonstrated are applicable to a host of other environmental problems."

In receiving the award, Swisher urged thorough evalua-

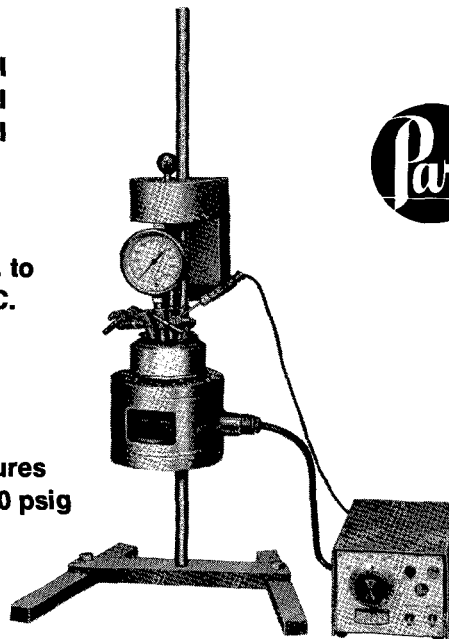
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tion before government action in the field of environmental science.

"It is imperative that we make haste slowly," he said. "We must listen to all the conflicting voices warning of this doom and that, offering this solution and that. Our best chance of choosing the optimum course of action from all these conflicting voices is to listen carefully to them all. We must judge them all with an open mind and as impartially as possible, on the basis of facts already known or, if necessary, to be determined. This consensus is, a priori, probably the best direction to move, if all the voices are given a fair hearing."

Dr. Swisher has been with Monsanto since 1945. He received his bachelor and doctorate degrees from the University of Michigan in 1931 and 1934, respectively. He became a member of AOCs in 1955 and also holds memberships in the American Chemical Society, the Chemical Society London, and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. ●

1977 Nominations Sought

Nominations are being sought for the 1977 Gold Medal Award by the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association. The award is accompanied by a \$1000 honorarium.

The award was established to recognize "outstanding accomplishment in the application of environmental chemistry which contributes in a significant way to improving the nation's environment and the general welfare of its citizens." Competition is open to all individuals employed by companies in the United States or affiliated with government agencies or U.S. educational institutions. Deadline for nominations is April 1. Nomination forms are available from the Chairman, SOCMA Research and Technical Programs Committee, 1075 Central Park Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583. ●