



## White: AOCS strength lies in its members

*(The following address was presented by retiring AOCS President Frank White to the opening plenary session of the Society Monday, May 9, 1977, during the 68th Annual Meeting in New York City.)*

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Last year in New Orleans, I remarked that only once in a generation has an engineer had the intriguing opportunity of becoming president of the American Oil Chemists' Society. For me this has been a pleasant anomaly, but I sometimes wonder what a masters in engineering is doing with a group of doctorates in chemistry. Fortunately, long after I left college, Mr. Williams, who once operated the elevator at the Chemists' Club in New York, always called me in his friendly fashion, Dr. White, as he did similarly for others. So I can say that a doctorate was conferred upon me by Williams, and not all of you can say that.

Perhaps it is a good thing for *all* of us occasionally to bring an engineer into the inner workings of our Society. Usually an engineer gives his opinion based upon what he sees to be correct—and let the chips fall where they may. For example, there were three men, a doctor, a lawyer, and an engineer, scheduled to be guillotined in the village square for deeds considered by the governor to be intentional, inappropriate, and injurious. Crowds gathered to witness the execution of justice. The first malefactor, the doctor, put his head on the block. The knife fell swiftly, but scarcely a few centimeters above the doctor's neck the knife stopped with a dull thud. As one, the crowd gasped and then they shouted, "Free him, free him; it is God's will." And so the governor freed the doctor.

Next came the lawyer, who balefully put his head on the block. Again the guillotine knife fell and, to the amazement of all, the knife again stopped short. As the crowd did for the doctor, it did for the lawyer, and the governor freed the lawyer.

Now it was the engineer's turn. As he put his head on the block, he gaped upward at the menacing knife. Then he suddenly called out, "Oh, I see what the trouble is."

If there is any resemblance in this story to persons living or dead, you may draw whatever conclusions you would enjoy most.

The more actively I have participated in shaping policy for our Society, the more I have come to realize that policy means nothing—nothing at all—if the people to implement policy are not available to give generously of their time and energy.

Some people look at the Governing Board of our Society and at its presidency, and say to themselves, "There's where the action is. There's the hub of the wheel." Of course there is truth in such an opinion, but there is another point of view as well.

Fortunately for all of us, the AOCS is blessed with members, who when motivated, are self-propelled and can be depended upon to do the work to make AOCS membership more interesting and more valuable to more and more people. Without them, the president and Governing Board can do little. Therefore, in reviewing the state of our Society and what we have together accomplished, I hope you will keep in mind that I will be reviewing what *we* did do, and unfortunately also what we did not do.

Our Society cannot function without dedicated members who direct and carry on the myriad of activities upon

which our members depend. Some activities are big and complicated. Some are not, but no less important. The Smalley Committee represents a big activity, one that for years has been directed by loyal and knowledgeable Smalley Committee chairmen. There was Dick Doughtie who died within recent memory, but whose work was so ably taken up by Bill Coleman. Bill retired, but gave detailed advice to his successor John Williams and also to John's successor, Jim Ridlehuber. Will we always be able to depend in the future that knowledgeable advice will be available when it is needed? The clear answer is "No," so John Williams with assists from Bill Coleman and Jim Ridlehuber has been doing what might have been done years ago. He has put together a comprehensive Smalley Committee manual, better to assure continuity of committee policy and action.

When our present Executive Director Jim Lyon took office some years back, he made useful changes in the manner in which financial reports were submitted to the Finance Committee and Governing Board. As a member of the first Finance Committee which benefited from those changes, I recall the savings in time for many of us which resulted. Subsequently, I asked myself what we really knew about the operation of our Champaign headquarters, particularly in the area of financial controls.

To turn this concern into constructive action, our Executive Director published a detailed code of accounts which will not only be useful to the operation of the Champaign office, but will ease the burden of the Finance Committee in its periodic analysis of the Society's financial condition. In addition, our Treasurer, Dave Firestone, directed the preparation of a first draft of a policy manual concerning the financial affairs of our Society. It has just been submitted to the Governing Board for study and approval. Once approved, however, the manual should be considered a living document, and reviewed annually, to make certain it is consistent with the growing concerns of our Society.

By now you have heard and read many glowing reports of the highly successful world conference held last year in Amsterdam on the subject of edible oil. So many good things were said about this conference, and so much good was attributable to the conference, that your Governing Board has committed itself to the sponsoring of a second world conference in October 1977 in Montreux, Switzerland. This time the subject to be treated will be synthetic detergents. And a third world conference is in the works for 1978 on the subject of protein. It goes, almost without saying, that our horizons are broadening, and our Society should benefit.

In the shadows of looming world conferences, lie our neglected domestic short courses. This is not as it should be, since short courses constitute an important service to our members. I am aware of this, as are also our Governing Board and committee chairmen. An increase in the frequency of short courses is necessary and is expected.

Those of you who have listened to me before have heard me urge you to attend meetings of AOCS committees whose work interests you. If you like what you find, speak to a committee chairman. He will be glad to have you as a new active working member of his committee.

A more sedentary way of finding out what work a committee does—apart from reading the committee scope in the directory, or attending a committee meeting—was

made possible by the Public Relations Committee, chaired by Jack Marcus. Jack started a movement to acquaint the entire AOCS membership with the work of AOCS committees. Each month, you will find committee reports published in our *AOCS Journal*. To meet the needs of our members, we must offer varied technical programs at annual meetings, short courses, local section meetings, and other regional conferences, with much of the meat of these programs recorded in the *Journal* and in *Lipids*. I'm glad to report that a tool to ease the burden of AOCS program committees has been prepared by the National Program Planning Committee, whose chairman is Erl Lowrey. This committee has prepared a compendium of technical topics and the names of speakers available to speak on these topics. This is a useful and necessary first step in the ultimate preparation of a recommended speakers list.

The AOCS also must be concerned about the welfare of its individual members. This responsibility is cared for in part by the placement service instituted by the Society in October 1975. In the year and a half since its inception, the placement service has grown rapidly, both in numbers of applicants and job opportunities. Members, who are forced to seek new employment, or simply wish to improve their own position, are urged to use this AOCS service. We urge

employers also in search of talented chemists and engineers to use the service.

The AOCS membership is growing and will continue to grow in the foreseeable future. If we continue this growth, your annual dues will be one of the few things in life which has not escalated wildly.

From 2,715 members in December of 1972, our membership roll has increased in each of the ensuing years. The last audited figure in December 1976 was 3,444, an increase of over 25%. More than one-third of this increase in the past five years occurred last year, 1976, and I'm hopeful, that you, the members, will strive to improve this fine record in 1977. You can help in more ways than one:

a) Inform the president, or any member of the Governing Board of your thoughts on what the AOCS is doing right, or doing wrong, or not doing at all, but should be doing.

b) Join a committee and support the AOCS with your brain and with your heart.

c) Invite others of like interests to become AOCS members.

Do all of these things and you'll find that both you and the AOCS will prosper. ●



## Applewhite: Mutual opportunities, mutual responsibilities

*(The following address was presented by AOCS President Thomas H. Applewhite during the Society's Inaugural Luncheon Thursday, May 12, 1977, during the 68th Annual Meeting in New York City.)*

Good afternoon! My friends and colleagues, it is a great pleasure for me to address you today. You have bestowed a high honor on me by selecting me to serve as president of our Society for the coming year. You, of course, also have challenged me with the opportunities and responsibilities that are part of that office. Today, I would like to take a few minutes to discuss what I believe are our mutual opportunities and responsibilities within the AOCS.

In looking back over other speeches made by many of my predecessors I find a common theme. And, in fact, you were just given a similar charge last Monday by our immediate past president, Frank White. The key to the success and life of our Society is involvement of our membership. To those of you who have many years of membership you know only too well of what I speak. To the younger members, and the future leaders of our Society, you either know now or soon must recognize that to succeed means to serve. That is true for life in general and, more particularly, for your part in the American Oil Chemists' Society.

Our Society has grown. It has expanded to include many disciplines. The people now looking ahead visualize even greater opportunities for many members, different interests and broader activities. But all this future depends on just one thing—our dedicated and involved members. The president—and you have a new one each year—and other elected officers serve just as you should. They are interested in and concerned about our Society and its continuing programs, but they alone can do little to achieve the many goals we seek. Together with you—an involved and concerned membership—they can and will continue to make

the AOCS grow and prosper.

If any of you aspire to these high offices in the future, you must start now. Just as all have served in their professional lives they must do the same here. Our administrative and technical committees are open to everyone. If you have an interest or an idea, attend the committee responsible and speak up. Every group can use new, fresh ideas and, more importantly, willing workers. If you can't find the correct committee meeting, talk to anyone on the Governing Board for they can point you in the right direction and will take your thoughts forward to the proper group.

Some key areas that particularly need fresh and new approaches are those involving education and program planning. We have many dedicated people now working on these important committees but they will gladly welcome others to share in the tasks of planning for and executing future short courses, conferences, and meetings. Your Governing Board and you recognize our ongoing need for strong and informative educational programs and continuing excellence in our meeting programs.

Our technical committees also offer outstanding opportunities for all to contribute their knowledge and experience in helping one another to solve technical problems of common interest. Much of the AOCS' past greatness came from the dedication of those who have labored for years in our technical committees. And our technology must continue to expand as new and important challenges of energy conservation, environmental control, and related regulatory activities gain momentum. Also, we all live with the continuing expansion of analytical and instrumental capabilities and our committees must continually update methodology to take advantage of the newer technology here.

But these, at best, are mechanical activities—the “nuts and bolts” that keep our Society strong, what about our growth; Some of our committees, including membership