



Applewhite urges involvement

(The following address was presented by retiring AOCS President Thomas H. Applewhite during the Society's Inaugural Luncheon, Thursday, May 18, 1978, during the 69th Annual Meeting in St. Louis.)

Ladies and gentlemen, my friends and colleagues — good afternoon! It hardly seems that a year ago I stepped up here to address many of you as your incoming president. And like many of your past-presidents, I meet this moment with mixed emotions. For, although it has been a great honor to serve you, there will be a certain feeling of relief in passing the traditional AOCS tomahawk and the responsibilities of this high office to my good friend, Dave Firestone. I hope he finds the job as challenging and as satisfying as I have.

The challenges of the office are those of any leadership position, and I'm sure many of you know them well in your daily activities. Of course, they are unique in organizations such as ours because we work, in part, with people who are donating their time and talent to something we all believe in. These are our dedicated members who really make things happen in the AOCS. They chair the committees, recruit the speakers, attend the meetings, write the letters, suggest the improvements, and critique the weak points so we can move forward together.

There is also the challenge of keeping aware of the tremendous job done by our professional staff as they

competently and professionally handle the multitude of day-to-day tasks that make our Society run smoothly and efficiently. I believe we all should compliment Jim Lyon and the AOCS staff for their professional excellence and competence.

Now to the satisfaction. Certainly it is rewarding to see our Society moving forward and to be a part of the group that is involved in the conception, planning, and execution of major activities of the AOCS. But, really, that opportunity is open to every member. With our representative system of the AOCS government, you can be as involved as you wish. And I can recommend involvement to you, for, as I mentioned last year, you will get out of the AOCS just what you put into it.

Another point of satisfaction is in seeing the AOCS continue as a growing dynamic organization. We are expanding our membership, our technical programs, and our publication areas. This, I believe, results because the Society's leaders are thinking about, planning for, and doing something about the future. In the Governing Board we are considering approaches to a more representative system of electing members-at-large to strengthen our ties to the membership. We also are striving to put our planning in many key areas: financial, technical programming, world conferences, and educational programs on a more systematic, functional basis. All of this brings satisfaction for it will continue to better serve our membership and the many industries they represent.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention the great personal satisfaction I have enjoyed from the honor and recognition given me this year as the president of the American Oil Chemists' Society. It is a year I will cherish and remember for the rest of my days. Thank you for allowing me to serve you. ●

Firestone: Looking back, Looking ahead

(The following address was presented by AOCS President David Firestone during the Society's Inaugural Luncheon, Thursday, May 18, 1978, during the 69th Annual Meeting in St. Louis.)

Good afternoon! It is a pleasure as well as a great honor for me to be here today as your new president. I want to thank my wife and my friends in the Society for their encouragement and support. It has often been said that "uneasy lies the head that wears the crown." That may be true for some kings and heads of state, but it doesn't quite represent my feelings today. Yes, I am aware of the responsibilities that go with the office, but I also look forward with optimism to a fruitful year for our Society.

Fortunately, I am not required to wear a crown. I do, however, have the pleasure of wielding our tomahawk gavel which is both a symbol of authority and a link binding the past to the present and future. I am told that the handle of the gavel is made of wood from a black walnut tree growing on the ancient site of a settlement of the Upper Creek Indian nation situated a few miles from Montgomery,



Alabama. This tree is said to have been planted by the Indians before 1714 when the French established an outpost, in the Fort Toulouse area. The hammerstone on the gavel is similar in shape to hammerstones used by native inhabitants to crush walnuts and other tree nuts for isolation of the oil. The gavel, given to the Society in 1924 by H.B. Battle, our 14th president, is representative of the earliest beginnings of the oil and fat industry in this country.

Our Society owes its beginnings to a meeting of the Interstate Cottonseed Crushers' Association held in Memphis, May 18-20, 1909. A small group of commercial and industrial analysts decided that they would form an