
Meetings

Applied Mechanics

ABOUT 500 engineers and scientists attended the Third US National Congress of Applied Mechanics at Brown University, June 11-14. All appeared to enjoy themselves and to profit professionally. Industrial, educational, and governmental organizations were represented on the program and in the very active discussion of the 100 papers presented.

The sponsoring group for national congresses is the US National Committee on Theoretical and Applied Mechanics which is a joint committee of the American Physical Society, the American Mathematical Society, the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences, the Society for Experimental Stress Analysis, and the relevant founder engineering societies ASCE, ASME, AICHE. Twenty-eight universities and industrial corporations contributed toward the financial support of the congress and the proceedings which will appear at the end of this year with the full text of all papers. The Department of Defense (through the ONR, OOR, and OSR) defrayed editorial costs of the proceedings.

Four invited general lectures were the technical highlights of the congress. N. J. Hoff spoke on creep buckling, H. L. Dryden on boundary layer flow, M. A. Biot on thermodynamics and mechanics, and E. Reissner on rotationally symmetric shell problems. They provided both a summarizing look backward and a research look forward and so were a real source of stimulation. The remaining technical papers covered dynamics, vibrations, elastic waves, elasticity, structures, plasticity, viscoelasticity, fracture, fluid flow, aerodynamics, and heat transfer. The level of the papers and of the dis-

cussion was very high. Chairmen of the 28 technical sessions in the four days kept to the time schedule so that there was no conflict with the general lectures and congress members could shift among the simultaneous sessions as their interests dictated.

The more popular research fields today continue to show the influence of the problems encountered in direct engineering application. Dynamics is taking an increasing share of attention and plates and shells show the worries of the missile and turbine fields. Fluid mechanics, aerodynamics, and heat transfer sessions were active but the number of papers were appreciably fewer than the importance of these subjects warrants. Much attention was devoted to means of correcting the unbalance in the future.

The social highlight of this predominantly technical meeting was the cocktail party and banquet held at the Officers' Club of the US Naval Base, Newport, R. I. William Prager, chairman of the Organizing Committee, was toastmaster and welcomed all on behalf of the Committee: D. C. Drucker, secretary; E. H. Lee, treasurer; and R. M. Haythornthwaite, chairman of the Editorial Committee. The members of the congress were greeted by Commander W. T. Alford, executive officer of the Base, Barnaby C. Keeney, president of Brown University, and W. F. Ryan, past president of ASME. Wallace R. Brode, Science Advisor to the Department of State, spoke on "International Science", emphasizing the importance of the role engineers and scientists play in international relations. Other social activities arranged by E. T. Onat and R. T. Shield included informal coffee hours and a ladies' program under the direction of Mrs. William Prager. The Editorial Committee was entertained by Professor Haythornthwaite prior to a session which drew up recommendations for future congresses.

Professor Hoff, who is chairman of the US National Committee, announced that the next congress will be held in June 1962 at the University of California in Berkeley.

D. C. Drucker
Brown University



Members of US National Committee for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics who attended Third Congress (left to right): W. Prager, representing American Mathematical Society, vice chairman of Committee; N. J. Hoff, representing Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences, chairman of Committee; H. L. Dryden, individual delegate; M. Hetenyi, representing Society for Experimental Stress Analysis; F. N. Frenkiel, representing American Physical Society; and W. Ramberg, representing American Society of Mechanical Engineers.