



Report of the 1962 President

Lloyd E. Elkins

This year has been a pleasant and rewarding experience for me. AIME continues to respond to the challenges that confront us as engineers, both in our relationship with the mineral industries and in our role as part of the engineering profession.

It is worth noting, I believe, that AIME of all the Founder Engineering Societies is unique. The other four are composed of individuals who, by and large, specialized in similar engineering disciplines during their college days. Within AIME our common - bond is not necessarily one of identical education, but, rather, of common service to the minerals industry. In addition to graduates who may have degrees in mining, metallurgical or petroleum engineering, many of our members are graduates of courses in civil, electrical, mechanical or chemical engineering. All, however, are concerned with the progress of the minerals industry in one or more of its branches.

MEMBERSHIP

AIME membership, as a whole, rose only slightly during the year, a fact which deserves comment. One of the paradoxes of our complicated age is the fact that while challenges to the minerals engineer are at an all time high, and the importance of his role climbs steadily, the absolute number of engineers in the minerals industry in the U. S. does not climb proportionately.

In part this is due, we think, to more efficient use of engineers in the mineral industry. This is caused both by availability of better trained engineers and better utilization of their efforts, through the aid of computers, for example.

There is and always will be unlimited opportunity in the mineral industry for the well trained graduate engineer. Such young men, adequately trained in a mineral engineering school, can have an inside track in the profession. This we must strive to get across both to our mineral engineering schools and to prospective engineering students.

STUDENTS

With a strong recommendation from our Council of Education, increasing effort has been directed to Student Chapter activities. Staff personnel in Salt Lake City, Dallas, and New York have been given the clear responsibility to coordinate and follow up on Section and Student Chapter relations. Results beginning to show.

ECONOMICS

Our Council of Economics is doing an excellent job in bringing to you papers highlighting both domestic and world-wide minerals economics. In 1962, an economic newsletter, summarizing these presentations, was mailed to 4,000 members who indicated interest in the Council's work. If you are interested in receiving future issues, write to the General Secretary.

FINANCES

AIME's financial picture is good (see page 7). As is proper for a non-profit organization, income and expense were roughly balanced.

As may be seen in the financial summary, dues from members account for approximately half of AIME's income. Other major items are receipts from the sale of publications, and income from sale of advertising which help to offset the cost of producing the valuable periodicals in which the advertising appears.

The good judgement and dedicated work of the officers and staff members concerned with the welfare of AIME and its three Societies deserve much credit for a satisfactory fiscal situation.

OPERATIONS

Although no drastic changes were made in methods or procedures this year, decision was reached to use more sophisticated automatic data processing and addressing equipment in the future. Advantages include added flexibility and clearer imprints. This equipment, in the United Engineering Center in New York, will be used jointly by five engineering societies housed in the Center. This service may be extended to others in the future.

SPECIAL ATTENTION

As President of AIME, I find it difficult, naturally, to choose from the many activities of AIME and its constituents, those few activities to which space in these pages limits us. At the risk of omitting many, however, I have chosen a few which I believe to be worthy of mention and which embrace AIME as a whole.

Credit for these achievements belongs to the many members of the Society of Mining Engineers, The Metallurgical Society and the Society of Petroleum Engineers, who have

volunteered their time to work with their colleagues for a better, constantly improving profession.

THESAURUS

In cooperation with the 28 other societies who comprise Engineers Joint Council, we are assisting in preparing an engineering thesaurus to facilitate information retrieval. This thesaurus, which will, among other things, permit standardization of terms used in our technology, will make it easier for our members, or any engineers, to locate readily technical information they may need.

LIBRARY

In the same field of technical literature, the outstanding service performed during 1962 by the Engineering Societies Library, which is supported in part by AIME funds, deserves our admiration and appreciation. Certainly the role of this fine library will grow in the future, as information retrieval becomes more complicated and important. (Services of the library, of course, are available to any AIME member by mail or by personal visit.)

FUTURE ENGINEERING RESEARCH

Another Engineers Joint Council effort, a survey of "The Nation's Engineering Research Needs, 1965 to 1985," received our support. Results of this look into the future should help to alert responsible people to some of the problems that will demand the work of engineers. Although AIME, of course, does not and can not advocate specific courses of Government action, this report will, we believe, be a valuable guide to leaders of Government as well as industry and education. A summary of the survey may be obtained by writing to: Engineers Joint Council, United Engineering Center, 345 East 47th Street, New York 17, N.Y.

ENGINEERING EDUCATION

Through Engineers Council for Professional Development, which is composed of ten engineering societies, including AIME, we have demonstrated our concern with engineering education.

One step taken recently by ECPD was a request for another survey of engineering and technical education in graduate schools, undergraduate colleges, and technical institutes. Hopefully, this survey will be conducted by the American Society for Engineering Education under a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Stimulating and controversial discussion stemming from the planning of this survey is, even now, a valuable by-product of this effort.

Another ECPD project in which we share is preparation of a program to stimulate interest in engineering as a profession among high school students and their parents.

TODAY AND TOMORROW

While we are pleased with the achievements of 1962, it goes without saying that we can not afford to rest on our laurels. I am sure that the hundreds of members who, through their Societies, Councils, Boards, Committees, Sections, and Divisions, made possible the record of 1962, would join me in that sentiment. I hope that those who have not yet taken part in official organized work of their professional society will be both appreciative of and challenged by the example set for them by these hundreds.

Lloyd E. Elkins