



## Report of the 1964 President

Karl L. Fetters

### PRESTIGE, AND IMPROVING THE IMAGE

" . . . to promote the arts and sciences connected with the economic production of the useful minerals and metals, and the welfare of those employed in these industries . . . "

The above statement appears in the Constitution of AIME, the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers. The Institute, founded in 1871 , is one of the oldest technical and professional societies in the United States and is one of the Engineering Founder Societies. We have a great heritage- an important work to do. How did we accomplish our goals in 1964?

### SERVING THE STUDENT ENGINEER

We took the Institute to the college campus to find out what the students and faculty are thinking. From this we determined the type of AIME which they want for the future. Our Directors visited most of our 73 AIME Student Chapters- and we organized two new ones. We created new incentives for our Student Paper Contests. We increased our prizes in the National Science Fair, International. We began publication of the "AIME Student News."

At our Annual Meeting in Chicago students were given a special welcome, their own hospitality room and access to less costly housing. This supplements the continuing good work of our Women's Auxiliary (WAAIME) through its Scholarship Loan Fund and "Engineers for Tomorrow" program. AIME must never lose sight of its obligations to students - to serve and help them during undergraduate days, and to develop in them a sense of professionalism which is so important to the work of a successful engineer.

### COHESIVENESS WITHIN AIME

Our leaders of the past clearly recognized the need for flexibility within the Institute structure to serve our diversified membership. The needs of the physical metallurgist and the geological engineer are quite different, but the membership of all of these groups and all others in the minerals and metals profession is desirable in the best interests of all.

Our structure of three semi-autonomous societies permits the desired flexibility on technical matters. The AIME Board of Directors and our headquarters office's activities bring us together. Without an overall AIME structure, we would have three relatively small societies whose voices would not be heard in matters affecting the engineering profession as effectively as is the total voice of AIME, the professional society for the entire minerals field.

In 1964 we continued to make progress in the formulation of administrative practices which permit the maximum possible autonomy for our three Constituent Societies while providing necessary authority to the parent organization.

## THE GRASS ROOTS

The most important unit of the Institute is the local Section, for this is where most of our members have their primary opportunity to participate in, contribute to, and gain from AIME.

The 1964 Board felt that our ever-changing Section officers should have direct communication with the AIME headquarters and the Board, so that ideas on membership service and Section operation might be maintained. This communication is most effectively accomplished in two ways - (1) through our Council of Section Delegates and (2) through Section visitation by our officers and staff. In 1964 we have attempted to strengthen the former by creating new materials for use by the Section Delegates and increasing rebates to small Sections sending representatives to Regional Delegates Meetings.

Also, we set out in 1964 to establish personal communications with all of our Sections. Through considerable personal sacrifice on the part of our officers, we accomplished our goal of visiting virtually all of our Mining and Metallurgical Sections throughout the nation, while the Society of Petroleum Engineers continued its active visitation program to Petroleum Sections.

## OTHER AREAS OF ACTIVITY

Space does not permit us to detail the many other noteworthy actions taken by our Institute Board during the year. These were in the areas of: embarking on a new public relations program aimed primarily at improving the image of the minerals engineer and engaging the interest of young people in this field of endeavor, reducing costs in our AIME Headquarters Office, creating a new committee to guide our increased interest in Government Affairs, and providing incentive in the formation of new AIME Sections. We are optimistic about the future of the Institute because of its devoted leaders and competent staff.

The Institute suffered a great loss in 1964 through the death of Herbert Hoover, our 1920 President. Mr. Hoover said prior to his death: "The Institute has served me well over the years and I feel that the contribution I have given in time and dollars has been repaid many times. Whatever success I may have achieved has been due to many people and many opportunities. Among the important of these is membership in A/ME." What finer tribute could an organization have than these words from this great man?