The Inauguration of
Harold Brown

It was, as it should have been, a very special day. Even
the skies were clear, and the sun unseasonably hot.

It was a big day. Almost 4,000 people came to see the
ceremony, so that bleachers had to be put up at the far end
of Beckman Mall along San Pasqual St.

It was a colorful day. The academic procession included
delegates from 204 colleges and universities and 43
learned societies, 8 Nobel Laureates, and 7 recipients of
the Caltech Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

It was an impressive day. In the formal ceremony of
investiture, by which Harold Brown officially became
president of the California Institute of Technology, the
academic hood placed on his shoulders was that of
R. A. Millikan—who, like Brown, had received his PhD
in physics from Columbia University.

It was a family day. At a special luncheon for
distinguished visitors in the Athenaeum (which had never
before served 720 people) the speaker was L. A. DuBridge,
who left the Caltech presidency last year to become science
adviser to President Nixon.

It was a full day. In the late afternoon the faculty gave
the Browns a champagne reception. In the evening the
students had a twilight buffet in Winnett Plaza, then
capped it with a rock concert in Beckman Auditorium.

It was, as it should have been, a very special day.
"A man very well endowed to forward the supreme mission of this institution, to reaffirm in this time of technology the primacy of the human being ... I present our new president, Dr. Harold Brown."

—Trustee Thomas J. Watson Jr.
Colene Brown offers her own congratulations to the new president.

The Nobel Laureates in the academic procession picked up an added starter at 3:30 a.m. on Inauguration Day when Caltech’s Murray Gell-Mann was notified he had won the 1969 Physics Prize. His fellow marchers are Caltech’s Max Delbrück, 1969 co-recipient of the Prize in medicine and physiology, and his boss—Carl Anderson (chairman of the division of physics, mathematics and astronomy), physics winner in 1936.
Lee DuBridge, president from 1946 to 1969, leads the applause for his successor.