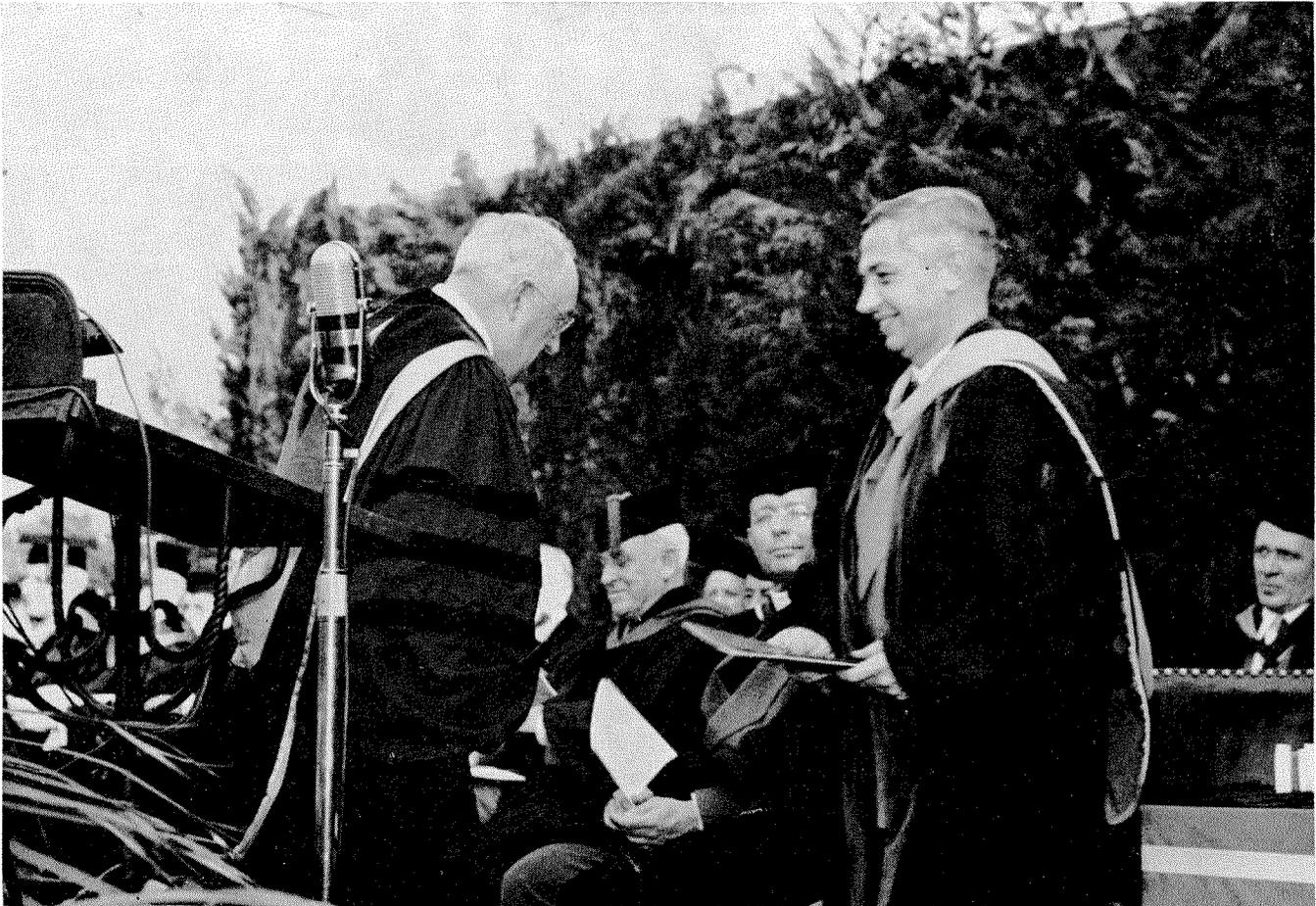


The Institute and the Alumni

By Lee A. DuBridge



President DuBridge shown with Executive Committee Chairman James R. Page, at graduation ceremonies.

THE CALIFORNIA Institute of Technology is no stronger than its alumni. It deserves to exist only if its alumni are serving the community and the nation in an important way—and if it is also clear that what the alumni gained while students at the Institute made an important contribution to their careers.

Conversely, while the Alumni are reflecting credit on the Institute, the growing prestige and effectiveness of the Institute is of direct benefit to each alumnus. Hence, nothing but benefit to both sides can possibly result from a full and understanding collaboration between the Institute and its alumni body.

There are many forms which such collaborations may take. The Institute attempts through the Placement Office, the Alumni Seminars and other activities to render a service to the alumni. The Administration would welcome suggestions as to how these services may be extended and improved.

A number of alumni groups have recently arranged to render a very valuable assistance to the Institute's Director of Admissions in handling the problems relating to examination and selection of entering students. The enormity of this problem and the terrible responsibility involved are seen in the fact that this spring about 1100 students completed applications for admission to CalTech next fall. Seven hundred-ninety were allowed to take entrance exams, about 400 did well enough to warrant an interview—and 180 were admitted. Are we sure we selected the best

180? Can we improve our system of administering examinations, gathering all relevant information about each student? The need for alumni help is obvious!

This problem is but one illustration of the way in which the Institute is entering a new era in its development. Its prestige is world-wide, the demands on its educational and research facilities are far greater than can be met. Science and engineering are facing new and greater opportunities in the world, in the nation, and especially in Southern California. The Institute can do no less than attempt to meet some, at least, of these needs. It can not meet them all quantitatively. (We can hardly contemplate an undergraduate body of 3000 even if it were desirable!) But it can attempt to do the finest possible job, qualitatively. To do this, its facilities and staff must be kept at the highest level. A new, and substantially higher, faculty-salary scale now going into effect will insure our ability to attract and retain the best men. But our physical plant is not yet complete, our income for education and research is still inadequate.

It would be natural at this time to turn to our rapidly growing alumni body for aid. We would probably have done so—if the Alumni Association had not beat us to it! The Alumni Fund is **your** idea. It is a great one, and will be warmly welcomed by alumni, students, faculty, trustees and administration. It can help make CIT a finer place. Toward that end we shall work together.