

# Speaking Of . . .

## A Science Adviser

I want to say a few words about the plan to “put science back in the White House” — as some refer to it — by reestablishing an Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Offices. The Director of the Office will also be the Science and Technology Adviser to the President. Such a move has been in the mill since President Ford expressed an interest in it and recommended that Congress create legislation to carry it through. The legislative process on this matter is now nearing completion. The House bill (H. R. 10230) to establish such an office has been passed, the President has given it his endorsement, and the House bill is before the Senate.

To assist in formulating some of the issues that will be addressed by the proposed OSTP, the President has appointed two interim advisory groups on science and technology. One of these ad hoc task forces, under Dr. William O. Baker, President of Bell Laboratories, will focus on anticipated scientific advances that may affect national policies in the years ahead. And I'm pleased that Dr. John Baldeschwieler of Caltech will be serving on this group. The other task force — under the chairmanship of the man for whom this auditorium was named, Dr. Simon Ramo — will study the contributions of technology to our economic strength and explore ways that technology can improve our productivity, our environment, and the role of our Government in carrying out its international goals and responsibilities.

The major questions that are always raised when the position of Science Adviser is discussed are: What effect will a Science Adviser have in the White House? What influence might he have on the President's thinking? Will his advice be accepted and have any impact on national policy?

These are questions that remain to be answered. Much depends not only on the knowledge and convictions of the

Science Adviser — and the way he is able to present his case — but on the receptiveness of the President and his top aides. In this regard I firmly believe that the time is ripe for the acceptance of effective counseling on national matters involving science and technology. The role they play and can play in almost every facet of our lives now makes them too important *not* to be considered most thoughtfully at the highest level of Government. I think we will see this process taking place in a growing way and with increasingly beneficial results for both science and the Nation.

If I am right, this will provide us with the resources and spirit needed to establish a new renaissance of research and development, one that will elicit exciting and challenging opportunities for all of us privileged to be a part of the science and engineering community — and one that could profoundly affect the

future of our society and the course of human progress.

—H. Guyford Stever, director of the National Science Foundation and science adviser to the President, in a talk to the Caltech-JPL Management Club on November 25, 1975.

## Air Pollution

Caltech has officially dedicated its new Air Quality Laboratory, made possible in part by a gift from the Pasadena Lung Association. The lab, on the roof of the Keck Engineering Laboratories, is now being used by Sheldon Friedlander, professor of chemical and environmental health engineering, and other Caltech engineers and scientists to study atmospheric pollutants in the Los Angeles Basin. At a conference held on campus last month on Strategies for Air



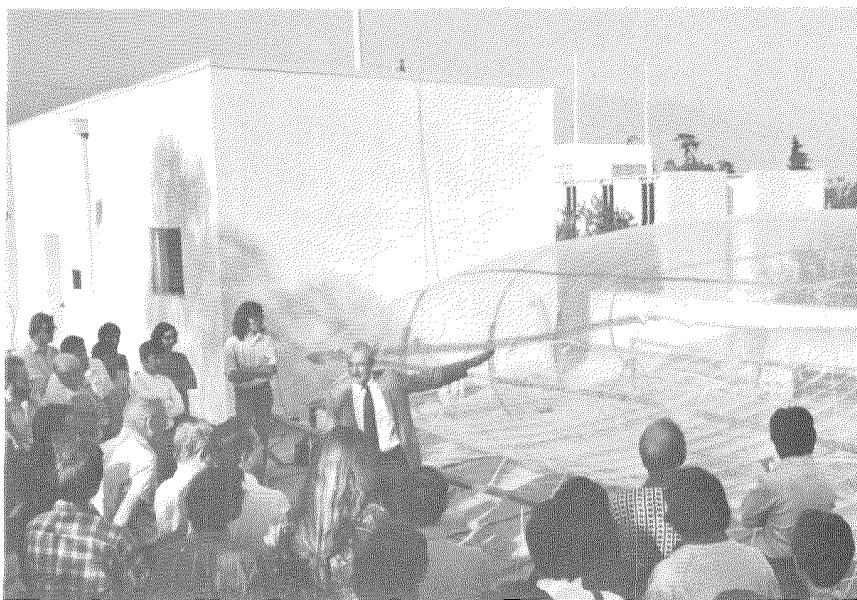
James Olds, Bing Professor of Behavioral Biology, describes the work in progress in his laboratory to Guy Stever, PhD '41, back on campus as one of the Caltech Y's Leaders in America.

Pollution Control in the South Coast Air Basin, Friedlander reported that the improvement in smog control achieved since the 1960s has leveled off in the last two or three years.

### Extroverts

For more than twenty years, starting in 1954, "a sturdy band of extroverted egg-heads" functioning as the Caltech Stock Company performed in a series of musical extravaganzas honoring various campus characters. All the shows were written by Kent Clark, professor of English (words), and Elliott Davis, lawyer and business executive (music), and they celebrated such events as Linus Pauling's Nobel Prize ("The Road to Stockholm" — 1954), Lee DuBridge's retirement from Caltech ("Lee and Sympathy" — 1969), and Arnold Beckman's retirement as chairman of the board of trustees ("Beautiful Beckman" — 1975).

All told, Clark and Davis turned out a total of about 11 shows before the Stock

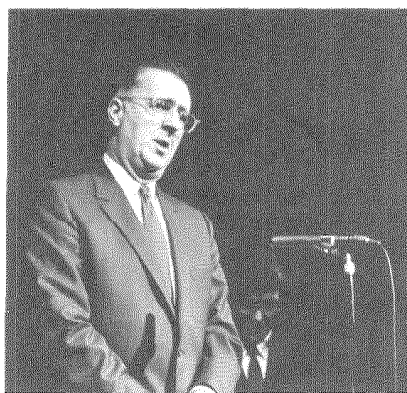


At the dedication of Caltech's new Air Quality Laboratory, Sheldon Friedlander shows off the lab's 2,000-cubic-foot Teflon balloon, used to capture samples of smog for analysis.

Company went out of business — partly from exhaustion — in 1975. But some of their greatest moments have now been preserved on a phonograph record, "Let's Advance on Science," for sale at the Caltech Bookstore (Pasadena, 91125 — *Advt.*)

The record consists of 12 songs retrieved from tapes of the old Clark-Davis shows, delivered by such surprising performers as Ray Owen, professor

of biology and dean of students (who is shown at the left below singing the love song "Loob Dub" to Fran Middlebrook), and William H. Corcoran, professor of chemical engineering and vice president for Institute relations (left, straying into the field of geology to sing "That's Not Gneiss"). Kent Clark, who is no mean performer himself, is the enthusiastic gentlemen leading the chorus line below.



Goulet?



Eddy and MacDonald?



A Chorus Line?