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OUR ALUMNI FUND

By H. B. Lewis

THE OFFICERS and directors of the Alumni Association of the California Institute of Technology feel that the association has "come of age" in announcing the inauguration of the alumni fund program. Like a man reaching his twenty-first birthday who obviously is not fully matured or at the peak of his personal usefulness but who has reached that point in life at which he is able and anxious to undertake a man's work and responsibility, the association has grown to a point where it can and should undertake to assist the Institute in really tangible ways. Only through serious work and the assumption of responsibility can the young man grow to a realization of his capacity for service and the full enjoyment of the rewards for service. Only through recognition of the responsibilities of alumni and their Alma Mater and through acceptance of the demands those responsibilities impose upon the organized alumni can an alumni association justify its existence.

The California Institute of Technology Alumni Association has grown rapidly for several years past; it has become a strong and effective body which has gradually developed the placement service, the annual seminar, and the monthly magazine. Each of these ventures has increased the usefulness of the Association to its members and helped to give the organization purpose, continuity, and prestige. The Association now has nearly 2000 members, bound together by ties of common interest and memories of the days spent at the Institute.

A still greater opportunity for service lies ahead. The Association is now large enough and strong enough to undertake to assist the Institute in its educational program. From an association concerned primarily with its own growth and assistance to its own members, it can become a real factor in the Institute community.

That we, as alumni, should and do want to render such assistance is almost a foregone conclusion. We appreciate the value of the type of education offered



by the Institute. We have personally profited by that education. We realize that two-thirds of the funds for operating expenses of the Institute and all of the funds for permanent facilities are derived from gifts to the Institute; in effect, each of us has been the recipient of a gift from the Institute, and indirectly from the donors to the Institute, of many hundreds or several thousands of dollars. We cannot repay those who gave to us, but we can and should do all we can to assure the same or greater opportunities to succeeding generations of CalTech men.

Our assistance to the Institute can, and should, take several forms. We can assist materially in disseminating factual information about the Institute to the general public, to student advisers and administrators in the high schools, and to potential supporters of the Institute. We can assist in the selection of candidates for admission to the Institute, particularly in areas relatively remote from Pasadena. We can participate directly in seminars or student technical society meetings to the great advantage of ourselves, the students, and the Institute. We can, to a limited extent, guide and counsel the students who are following us.

All of these activities require time, thought, and effort of individual alumni who are willing to help for the satisfaction of helping. The alumni are participating now in these efforts and they will doubtless continue to do so on an increasing scale.

We can also assist the Institute with direct gifts of funds for general or specific purposes. No general appeal for such assistance from the alumni has ever been made by either the Association or the Institute, but many alumni have expressed a desire to help and have asked why no effort was made to acquaint them with needs and why no provision was made for soliciting such gifts.

A committee was appointed about a year ago by Charles Varney, then president of the Alumni Association, to study the situation and to develop a plan of operation for a CalTech Alumni Fund. The oper-

ating plans used and the results obtained by several other schools were studied by this committee. These plans vary greatly, both in operation and in results. In some cases every alumnus is considered to be a member of the Alumni Association and all news and appeals for gifts are sent to all alumni. In some the alumni secretary is an employee of the college or university and his principal function is to conduct a high-pressure, direct mail campaign for gifts. In some cases dues, magazine subscriptions, and gifts for various purposes are segregated or even solicited by separate groups. In many cases operating and solicitation expenses are drawn from the gifts received for support of the institution and may amount to 20 or 30 per cent of receipts.

It was felt that none of the plans studied exactly fitted our requirements. We have our Alumni Association well established on a dues-paying basis with practically all of the Association's income and efforts devoted to the interests of the active members and the Institute. Our monthly magazine absorbs the bulk of the income from dues now and we could not hope to send it to all alumni without increased income or a substantial cut in size and quality of the magazine. It was also felt that a high-pressure campaign for gifts would not be favorably received by our alumni, nor would they like to have their gifts, even in part, used to support such a campaign.

The plan finally developed is extremely simple. It has been tailor-made to suit what its authors consider to be the needs of the Institute and the requirements of its alumni. The principal features of the plan are as follows:

- 1) An Alumni Fund is created with the Institute holding title to the fund. This assures donors to the fund of full deductibility of their gifts for income tax purposes.
- 2) The Alumni Association agrees to undertake to solicit gifts to the fund from all alumni.
- 3) Fund money can be spent only with the approval of both the Institute Board of Trustees and the Association Board of Directors. This is to assure the use of money for Institute purposes only, yet to permit the donors some control of the uses to which their contributions are put.
- 4) All expense of solicitation will be borne by the Association and its dues-paying members. This assures donors that 100 per cent of their gifts will be used for Institute purposes, not 80 per cent or 70 per cent, as with some funds, the remainder going into high-pressure campaigns for contributions. It remains to be seen whether or not they will contribute without pressure.
- 5) The Association will depend upon assistance from as many of its members as are willing and able to volunteer to help with the solicitation in order to keep its costs to a minimum.

The minimum of publicity and solicitation required merely to keep the alumni, members, and non-members aware of the existence of the fund will place an additional load on the already overloaded association budget. Our Association lists as active members approximately 47 per cent of the alumni. This is a somewhat better than average record, but Tech men are not usually satisfied with performance somewhat better than average. We should double our association membership and thus increase our association income. Certainly the overwhelming majority of Tech men appreciate what Tech means and what

it has done for them. They need only be told of the Association's activities to realize that they should be supporting it. If each member of the Association will find one alumnus who is not a member and explain to him how the Association is helping its members and the Institute, we would soon have the largest active membership, percentage-wise, of any alumni association in the country.

The Board of Directors of the Association had the power to create an Alumni Fund under its general powers, but it was felt that a by-law specifically defining the purposes and method of operation of the Fund should be written. This has been done (along with a general revision of the By-Laws for clarity and to meet changed conditions); the by-law has been adopted, and becomes effective July 1st of this year.

The committee, through analysis of the results of fund campaigns of other alumni groups, tried to estimate the amount of money the alumni as a group might be expected to contribute, but was forced to conclude that no estimate worthy of the name could be made. Several alumni as individuals have made substantial contributions and have been elected Institute Associates. A number of others have indicated their intentions of making gifts or pledges which would qualify them for that honor. These larger gifts, if made through the Alumni Fund, will be doubly recognized; they will be credited to the Alumni Fund and will also qualify the donor for election to the Associates.

Inevitably the majority of alumni will be able to give only a few dollars a year per man. However, one thousand ten-dollar gifts are of far more value than five one-thousand-dollar gifts. If each alumnus gives generously within his means, he will be doing his full share, whether his gift is \$1.00 or \$10,000. Each will then be entitled to a new pride in our Alma Mater and in our part in its support, and the Alumni Fund will be a great success.

In order that the Association might not go to the Institute empty handed, the officers, directors, and committee members have themselves contributed approximately \$1500 to start the fund, so that as of the closing date of this issue of **Engineering and Science** the fund is a going concern. The officers and directors sincerely hope that a considerable number of alumni, reading this article, will be moved to send in their checks without further solicitation. They also hope that many will volunteer to help with time and effort in the various Association activities.

No specific allocation of funds has as yet been made. All of the alumni so far consulted hope to see the Fund instrumental in providing or helping to provide a gymnasium and other recreational facilities for the use of students, faculty, and alumni. With the acquisition of Tournament Park assured, plans for such facilities are being developed. When those plans are completed and when we as alumni have indicated the extent to which we are willing and able to contribute to their fulfillment, it will be possible to determine what specific part of the plan the alumni will undertake.

CalTech alumni have watched the phenomenal growth of the Institute with pride; many have regretted their inability to assist significantly in that growth. They have recognized the peculiar position held by CalTech as an outstanding exponent of the need for training highly selected young men in the

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Dr. Linus Pauling, chairman of the Division of Chemistry, received a Doctor of Science degree from Cambridge University, Cambridge, England, June 12. Dr. Pauling, shown above enroute to England with his wife, is attending a number of scientific meetings while in Europe. Before returning to this country late in July, the Paulings will visit Norway and Sweden.

ASSOCIATES HEAR ATOMIC ENERGY TALKS

THREE DINNER meetings in May presented to Institute Associates a symposium on atomic energy. Held in the Athenaeum, these meetings gave members of the California Institute Associates, an organization which has as its object the aid and advancement of the welfare of CalTech, an opportunity to hear first-hand information from six men who can be considered authoritative in this field.

The first meeting featured "Nuclear Physics, the Basis of Atomic Energy." Dr. W. A. Fowler, professor of physics, and Dr. R. F. Christie, associate professor of theoretical physics discussed this theoretical phase of the problem.

"The Control of Atomic Energy: United States' Problem" was presented at the second meeting by President Lee A. DuBridge and Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, professor of theoretical physics. Dr. DuBridge, who directed the Government's huge Radiation Laboratory project at M.I.T. during the war, is a member of the General Advisory Committee of the United States Atomic Energy Committee. Dr. Oppenheimer was director of the Laboratory at Los Alamos, New Mexico, where the atomic bomb was developed, was a member of the Lilienthal Committee which prepared the Acheson Report, and is now chairman of the committee appointed by the President to advise the United States Atomic Energy Commission.

Dr. R. C. Tolman, CalTech professor of physical chemistry and mathematical physics, and Dr. H. S. Kramers, Nobel Laureate and professor of physics at the University of Leiden, Holland, spoke on the problems of atomic energy control from an international standpoint at the third meeting for Associates. Dr. Tolman is scientific advisor to Bernard Baruch, United States representative on the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission, and Dr. Kramers was the Dutch representative on the Commission and its first representative.

WATSON NAMED DIVISION CHAIRMAN

E. C. WATSON, professor of physics, was appointed Chairman of the Division of Physics, Mathematics, and Electrical Engineering at the California Institute in May. Professor Watson, who joined the physics faculty in 1919, has been acting chairman of the division which he will now head permanently, since the resignation of Dr. William V. Houston, now president of Rice Institute, Houston, Texas.

Professor Watson served as administrative head of the CalTech rocket project during the war which included not only the design and development of most of the major rockets used by the U. S. armed forces, but also production of over a million rounds of rockets. He was a member of Division 3, National Development and Research Committee from 1941 to 1945.

He is chairman of the Faculty Board and Dean of the Faculty, and a member of numerous campus committees. He is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, and Tau Beta Pi, a fellow of the American Physical Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the American Association of Physics Teachers and History of Science Society.

Professor Watson was an assistant in physics at the University of Chicago before coming to the Institute, and during the first World War did research at the U. S. Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut.

For many years he has supervised the Friday Evening Demonstration Lectures and Teachers Institute Lectures at CalTech.

Our Alumni Fund

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basic sciences and the humanities to fit them for leadership in the complex world of today and tomorrow. Tech alumni recognize the great advantages of small classes, intimate association with outstanding faculty men, and the academic freedom possibly only in a small school independent of government support and political pressures.

Such schools as CalTech can exist only if those who recognize their worth support them generously. Alumni who support the California Institute of Technology Alumni Association Fund by assisting in the solicitation of funds and by giving what time, effort, and money they themselves can afford to give will benefit the Institute and the social order it serves, the Alumni Association, which will grow in stature as it serves its Alma Mater, and themselves as they become more closely identified with a great and growing institution and a great and growing body of alumni.