

The First Unified Science Conference

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Our Leader, Sun Myung Moon and Edward Haskell at the Conference

Behind the Scenes Preparation for the science conference involved considerable effort from many people. Consistently working to bring it about were Mr. Haskell, Neil Winterbottom, and Glenn Strait. Many members from New York Center helped, and as things got down to the wire, Colin MacAndrew (Family friend), Therese Klein, and Betsy Drapcho relocated to New York to help.

The whole conference staff, administrators, typists, hostesses, messengers, security guards, PR men, and photographers were family members. Chris Killingbeck (England) and Dr. Kenji Nomura (Japan) were among the observers.

Running the conference was hard work, involving about 14 hours a day, often in the same room. But the prospect of hearing our Leader address the conference was a highly motivating inspiration, as well as was the hope for a significant outcome to the conference. And, President Nixon was in the same hotel, sometimes even on our floor.

The result was a success. Glenn Strait, conference administrator, comments: "I'm quite pleased with the overall response, especially; considering that there was little time for the team to get together. The conference has been a big boost for our church. It will bear unexpected fruits."

The attitude of the participants toward the staff was quite favorable. Professor Haskell often paid tribute to Unification Church members during the conference, praising us as examples of "constant cooperation." Mr. William Wallace, senior vice-president of the Olin corporation, wrote to Glenn that we had done "an outstanding job in organizing and staffing the conference" and that our "warmth, pleasantness, and effort deserve the highest commendation." And Prof. Wold from Sweden was overheard remarking to another scientist: "I am very impressed by the young people of the Unification Church. Aren't you?"

The success of the conference

Some scientists were at points confused by the papers presented; (Remarks by scientists during the conference: "Would Mr. Hyde please translate his paper into English?" and "During Dr. Sonneman's paper I felt I was running after his coattails. When I finally caught them, he was gone!") and some of the scientists seemed split between confirming Haskell's Unified Science theory, finding unity apart from it or merely expressing personal views.

Nonetheless, it was an impressive accomplishment. Through our efforts, scientists from private industry, Yale, Harvard, Columbia, and Oxford were gathered together at the Waldorf Astoria for a smoothly-running conference ("Markedly lacking in hostility," commented Dr. Anderson) and for the first English speech of Sun Myung Moon. While the presentation of papers from different disciplines and the formation of CURE may have immediate importance, the fruits of the scientists interaction among themselves and with Unification Church members will have ultimate value.

Summary

"I welcome your coming from nine countries and three continents...! welcome the appliers of our sciences...! welcome the man who represents our religious and literary culture, who made this conference possible... " Thus Mr. Edward Haskell opened the first international conference on Unified Science at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel on November 23rd. The goal of the conference, said Haskell, was to reduce the "crisis into which the sciences have drifted over the centuries since Copernicus; the moral, political, and ecological crisis into which their drifting has dragged universities, and in their train, industrial civilization as a whole."

Mr. Haskell spoke from a podium in a wing of the Grand Ballroom of the hotel, backed by a huge chart outlining his theory, before an audience of about fifty people. The program for the next three days consisted of three lectures and a discussion each morning and afternoon, and a discussion in the evening. Programs lasted from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Each day's proceedings had a chairman who gave an introductory speech and moderated the discussions. Dr. Kurti, chairman of the first day, surprisingly announced that he did not agree with the choice of the name CURE (Council for Unified Research and Education) for the sponsoring organization, nor did he believe that the schism between the scientific and literary cultures was great. In spite of this setback, Dr. Harold Cassidy, an original CURE member, gave an outline of Haskell's Unified Science model, which is based on a generalization of Mendeleev's periodic table.

Dr. O. Roger Anderson was the highlight of the first day. Anderson, a young professor at Columbia, had determined through tests that students learn best when there is a balance of old and new words and ideas used in presenting new knowledge. He sees Unified Science as "giving a productive thrust to the educational enterprise and to society." He was impressed by the Unification Church, feeling that a comprehensive spiritual world-view is in harmony with science. In his role as CURE representative for the United States, he hopes to develop curriculum materials for science education.

Two Oriental participants, Drs. Yoon (Korea) and Hayashi (Japan) presented their ideas on Friday evening. Dr. Yoon, an engineer, discussed the relationship among the five basic elements -- earth, air, water, and metal- according to Oriental tradition. "A new consciousness and a new society are necessary," concluded Dr. Hayashi, as he outlined an ascending spiral of needs, social functions, and technology. According to Dr. Hayashi, our needs make social institutions necessary, and as new technology is developed to handle the needs and the social institutions, this technology also creates new needs.

On Saturday afternoon, Dr. Lodge, also a founding member of CURE, used the coordinate system developed by Haskell to plot the results of personality tests -- prizewinning scientists fell in the category of plus-plus, or maximum integration, while psychotics often fell in the minus-minus quadrant of maximum disorganization. Dr. Arensberg, professor of anthropology, presented his view that cultures grow through a series of six stages, maintaining the vestiges of each stage within them.

On Sunday morning the speeches by Dr. Laszlow and William Wallace set a very positive atmosphere. Laszlow, a pioneer in systems theory, gave a convincing argument that each part of the universe is inextricably related: "All levels interface -- each hierarchy is in constant feedback with the others." After Haskell summarized the conference, Mr. Wallace, senior vice-president of the Olin corporation, described his views of how an integrated view of science could help education, industry, and society.



First speech in English

Our Leader addressed a full audience. In introduction, Dr. Haskell said: "He is the first religious leader who has proposed and organized a science conference. He has kept his word in every way." Our Leader spoke slowly and clearly, giving a speech more comprehensible than many others at the conference. The speech was followed by introductions of CURE representatives, and by discussion of administrative details.

The conference was closed by a banquet, with a recital presented by Tom Ludwig and Barbara Rivers. Mr. Nomura, Japanese CURE representative and Family member, announced that the second international conference on Unified Science will be held in a year in Tokyo. Professor Haskell closed the conference with observation that, with so many Unification Church members in Tokyo, the second conference is bound to be successful.