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Centennial of Engineering Convocation

THE Centennial of Engineering, to be celebrated in Chicago September 3-13, will offer to engineers and to the public an unparalleled opportunity to learn at firsthand about the activities and accomplishments of the engineering profession and about the basic factors that have made America great. Every effort is being made to have the thousand technical papers at the convocation persented in language that will be understandable to all listeners. In this way it is hoped to achieve the principal purposes of a comprehensive program arranged for 30,000 engineers and guests assembling from 61 American and foreign organizations and representing at least 20 nations. The main objectives of the nonprofit organization conducting the event, Centennial of Engineering, 1952, Inc., are to promote better public understanding of the principles of engineering that have contributed so largely to American civilization and leadership.

The occasion for the great convocation that affords this opportunity is the centennial of the American Society of Civil Engineers, oldest national organization of engineers in the United States. Joining it in its celebration are all branches of the engineering profession, which has never before arranged a meeting encompassing such a wide variety of subjects. Members of one branch of the profession will have an unprecedented opportunity to learn about recent developments in other branches, for at least 39 societies will hold individual or joint technical meetings. It is particularly important, under these circumstances, that the presentation shall be in language understandable to all, so that engineers, who are merely part of the public outside their own fields, may attend sessions conducted by branches other than their own and come away with new knowledge.

Twelve symposia constitute the backbone of the convocation program. They will deal with such vital subjects as food, transportation, communication, and

energy, presented and discussed by experts. These symposia will afford special opportunity for those from abroad to study American aims and thinking. Nearly 500 foreign scientists will attend, more than half of them from Marshall Plan nations. Tours have been arranged for them by the National Management Council on behalf of the Mutual Security Agency. Two weeks of travel will place them at American engineering scenes in accordance with their respective preferences, and a final program will be held for them in Washington, D. C.

Two other important phases of the convocation will serve to apprise the public of what engineering has achieved, what it is, what it plans, and how much it has meant to the development of the nation, to the assurance of high standards of living, and to protection against aggression. One is the brilliant musical production, *Adam to Atom*, twice daily, in the theatre of the Museum of Science and Industry. The other is a series of temporary exhibits in the Museum, which, added to the many exhibits on permanent display, portrays the story of engineering.

Many distinguished names are on the roster of officers, directors, and committee chairmen. Lenox R. Lohr is president of Centennial of Engineering, 1952, Inc. Carlton S. Proctor, president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, is vice president of the corporation. Charles F. Kettering is chairman of the executive committee. Directors include Herbert Hoover, Benjamin F. Fairless, David Sarnoff, Ralph Budd, Gano Dunn, Brehon B. Somervell, and many others equally prominent in the profession. Henry T. Heald, of New York University, is chairman of the Convocation Committee, and E. Lawrence Chandler, assistant secretary of the American Society of Civil Engineers, is convocation manager. Frank W. Edwards, director, Department of Civil Engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology, is general manager for Centennial of Engineering, Inc.

E. LAWRENCE CHANDLER

*American Society of Civil Engineers
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