

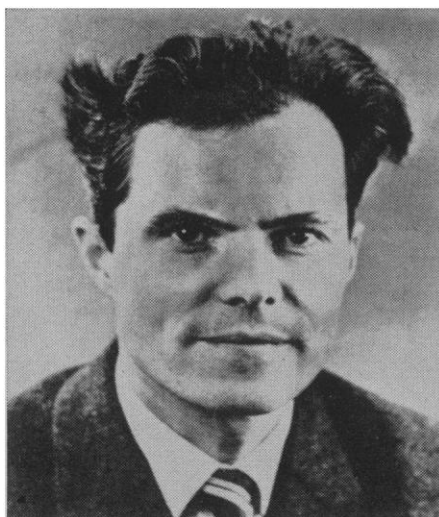
Announcements

The 1961 Nobel prizes in science have been awarded to **Georg von Békésy** (medicine), **Melvin Calvin** (chemistry), and **Robert Hofstadter** and **Rudolf Mössbauer** (physics).

Békésy, 62, was cited principally for discoveries concerning the physical mechanisms of stimulation within the cochlea, the spiral canal of the inner ear. This work, performed in Hungary 30 years ago, demonstrated how the cochlea differentiates between various sounds. Hungarian born, Békésy was trained as a physicist at the University of Budapest, where he taught until the communists came to power in 1946. During this period (1923–1946), he also worked in the Hungarian Telephone Research Laboratory. He spent the following 3 years at the Caroline Institute in Stockholm. Since 1949 he has worked at Harvard as a senior research fellow in the psychoacoustic laboratory.

Calvin, 50, was cited for his establishment of the sequence of chemical reactions involved when a plant assimilates carbon dioxide. This project, which he began about 15 years ago, utilizes radioactive carbon-14 to study the various chemical reactions that occur in plants during photosynthesis. Calvin received his doctorate in chemistry from the University of Minnesota in 1935. After 2 years of research at Manchester, England, on a fellowship grant, he joined the faculty of the University of California at Berkeley, where he is currently working.

Hofstadter, 46, was honored for his



Rudolf Mössbauer

studies of electron scattering in atomic nuclei and for discoveries concerning the structure of the nucleons. He received his master's and doctor's degrees in physics from Princeton and spent the early part of World War II at the National Bureau of Standards working on the proximity fuse. He became assistant professor of physics at Princeton in 1946 and, in 1950, joined the Stanford University faculty, where he is now head of the physics department. There he began the work with the university's linear accelerator that brought him the Nobel prize. During 1958–59 he spent a year on a Guggenheim fellowship as a guest professor at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, in Geneva.

Mössbauer, 32, who will share the physics prize with Hofstadter, was cited for his method of using radiating nu-



Robert Hofstadter

clei as accurate measures of time, making possible the first laboratory test of the theory of relativity. This effect, which now bears his name, is of fundamental importance in atomic research. Mössbauer was born in Munich. He worked for 2 years in an optical firm before entering Munich Technical Institute in 1949. There he received his master's degree in 1955 and his doctorate 3 years later. In 1960 he went to Pasadena as a guest on the staff of the California Institute of Technology, where he is currently employed.

Scientists in the News

Recent awards of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration:

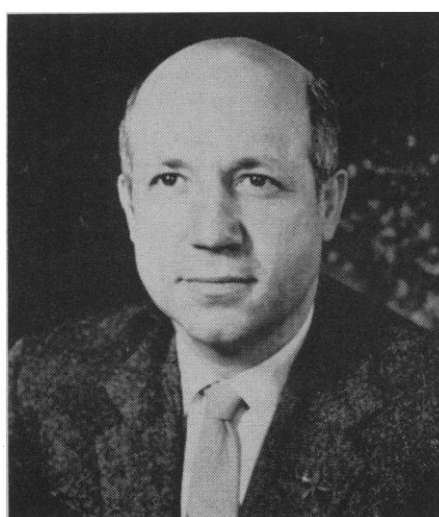
Abe Silverstein, recently appointed director of the Lewis Research Center at Cleveland, Ohio, received the outstanding leadership award for formulating, effecting, and directing various elements of the agency's space program and for developing space flight centers.

William J. O'Sullivan, Jr., assistant to the chief of the applied materials and physics division of NASA's Langley (Virginia) Research Center, received the exceptional scientific achievement award for developing the Echo inflatable balloon satellite.

Theodore B. Davich, entomologist and a former director at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's entomology research division, College Station, Texas, has been appointed director of the USDA's newly organized Boll Weevil Research Laboratory in State College, Mississippi.



Georg von Békésy



Melvin Calvin