

# Science and Technology: Bridging the Frontiers

The theme of the forthcoming AAAS Annual Meeting in Toronto evokes the late Vannevar Bush's phrase, "Science: The Endless Frontier," which he used as the title of his seminal 1945 book. And indeed, much about the Meeting will deal with the frontiers of science and their contributions to the endless frontiers of human knowledge and aspirations. But this theme also reminds most of us who will convene in Toronto that we will cross a frontier of a different sort, one more consonant with the common use of the word. It is a frontier of a most uncommon sort, "guarded only by neighborly respect and honorable obligations," as Winston Churchill noted, and as such is "an example to every country and a pattern for the future of the world." The continued uncommonness of this kind of frontier makes our Toronto Meeting one particularly apt for the special set of symposia on "Directing Science Towards Peace," which provide an important subtheme of this meeting.

Political frontiers, although very much with us in these difficult times, are as much an artifact as are the frontiers of knowledge. Perhaps the pithy remark of Henry David Thoreau, made at the time when this Association was drawing its first uncertain breaths, puts this into its best perspective: "The frontiers are not east or west, north or south, but wherever a man *fronts* a fact." In the 159 symposia scheduled for the Toronto Meeting, we will front many facts, facts of nature and facts about ourselves, and many purported facts upon which a multitude of decisions hinge and which particularly need fronting.

The program for the Toronto Meeting is a particularly rich one with nine distinguished public lecturers and a host of invited symposium speakers on all topics in the natural and social sciences and their applications to technology, health services, social services, and national and international policy. In addition, we have a new Exhibit of the latest in scientific and technological publications and instrumentation, a Film Festival of the best science films produced in the last year, and a number of tours and social activities arranged through the kind offices of the Toronto Advisory Committee, ably chaired by J. Tuzo Wilson (Director General of the Ontario Science Centre) and John A. Armstrong (Chairman and Chief Execu-

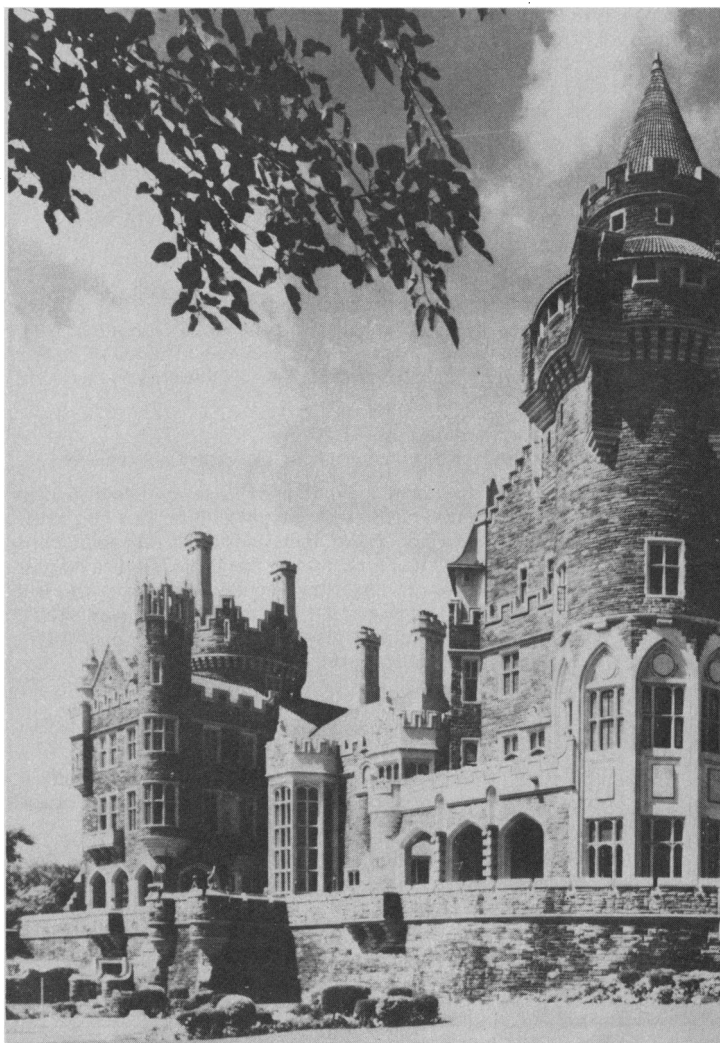
tive Officer of Imperial Oil, Ltd.); we are most grateful for their efforts on our behalf.

Visiting Toronto will be a unique and gratifying experience for all of us; it is an uncommonly well run metropolis with a uniquely efficient transportation system and a thriving urban center with many exciting cultural activities. Its charm and ambience earn it the right to be considered one of the leading cultural centers of North America. And, particularly for those who will cross the frontier from the south, it will be an opportunity to see a remarkably safe and hospitable central city.

Come and join us in bridging these frontiers and in fronting the facts on which our futures depend. Make your reservations early and use the new travel services we are providing; they should save you money as well as ensure you a smooth passage during a crowded travel period.

—ARTHUR HERSCHMAN

Casa Loma, Toronto's 98-room castle. [Convention and Tourist Bureau of Metropolitan Toronto]



Annual Meeting  
Toronto  
3-8 January 1981

For further details and for housing and registration forms, see the following pages in this issue. Please remember that the Annual Meeting begins 2 days after the New Year's holiday. **Make your travel arrangements now** to avoid the holiday rush.