

WELCOMING ADDRESS

By Major General H. Reichelderfer, USA (Ret.)
Administrative Vice President
Southwest Research Institute

On behalf of our President, Martin Goland, and the staff of Southwest Research Institute, I am happy to welcome you to San Antonio and this fourth Conference on Propulsion Systems Lubricants, which we have been given the honor of co-sponsoring with the Wright Air Development Division of the Air Research and Development Command.

As I understand it, the basic objective of these conferences is to provide a forum for the periodic review of the nation's requirements for lubricants of aircraft and aerospace propulsion systems for use by the military services, and the total current effort of the nation's resources in meeting these requirements. The discussions are unclassified so that they may be widely disseminated for the maximum benefit of all concerned.

At the first of these conferences which was also held in San Antonio in April 1955, almost no time was devoted to, what is uppermost in most scientists' minds today, space propulsion systems. At this conference, I feel sure this aspect will receive much of your attention, as it should, but not to the neglect of the more prosaic types of propulsion systems which will be used for many years to come.

It appears to me that these conferences are unique in one respect in that here we have four distinct groups of our national structure getting together in a fine spirit of cooperation to discuss their individual problems and points of view. First, the Armed Forces, or the users of the systems are represented. Next, the manufacturers of the propulsion systems have their representatives. Thirdly, there are the representatives of the manufacturers and suppliers of the lubricants which will make the hardware operable. Finally, those representatives of organizations, such as ours, who can look at the problems of the other three groups in an objective fashion and, we hope, help them in the solution of their problems.

We have been proud of the part we have played in the previous conferences, and I want to stress that the cooperation demonstrated by these four groups has been marvelous.

Again, I wish to welcome you to this Conference, and express the hope that it will be successful in every way.