

Inauguration of million-dollar computation facility to be held April 7

March 31, 1961

Ceremonies honoring the inauguration of a new million-dollar computation facility will be held at the University of California, San Diego on Friday, April 7.

Three famous scientists will discuss the use of computers in their specialties, the new Control Data Center Model 1604 computer system will be demonstrated, and a panel discussion will be held on possible future developments in computers.

Speakers at the morning session will be Prof. Keith A. Brueckner, Chairman of the Department of Physics, School of Science and Engineering, discussing uses of computers in nuclear physics theory; Sir Edward Bullard, of Cambridge University, England, on uses of computers in geophysics; and Prof. Harold C. Urey, Professor-at-Large of Chemistry, on uses of computers in stellar chemical physics. The talks will begin at 10:00 a.m. in Sumner Auditorium.

The new computer system will be demonstrated at 11:10 a.m. It is located in room 2255, Sverdrup Hall.

At 1:30 P.m. there will be a panel discussion in Sumner Auditorium. The panel consists of Dr. Maurice B. Halstead, Head of the Theory Analysis and Computer Branch of the Signal Propagation Division, U. S. Navy Electronics Laboratory; Donn B. Parker, Systems Programming Supervisor, Convair-Astronautics; and Christopher J. Shaw, Systems Development Corporation, Los Angeles. They will discuss compiler oriented logical design of digital computers.

The new computation facility is headed by Dr. Clay L. Perry. Funds for its purchase were made available by the Atomic Energy Commission. The system consists of two computers that can work independently or together, able to communicate information back and forth in millionths of seconds. The system was designed and manufactured by Control Data Corporation, Minneapolis, Minn. Several of the company's executives will attend the opening ceremonies.

The larger of the two computers is the Control Data Model 1604, able to store in its magnetic core memory more than 1.5 million bits of information and recall any of them in little more than 2 or 3 millionths of a second. The smaller computer is a Control Data 160. The rest of the system is made up of eight magnetic tape handlers, a card punch, card reader, and high-speed printer.

The computer system will be used in unclassified, basic research. A large share of its work will be on problems in nuclear and solid-state physics for the Department of Physics. Other work will be done on such problems as ocean waves, tides, investigations of sediment distribution and behavior of interstellar gases.

The ceremonies will be open to the public.