

## **Urey will speak on "The Abundances of the Elements" in La Jolla on September 17 at the first of the Fall 1962 Faculty Lectures.**

**September 7, 1962**

Harold C. Urey will speak on "The Abundances of the Elements" at a free public lecture in La Jolla on Monday night, September 17.

Dr. Urey, a Nobel Prize winner, is a Professor of Chemistry at Large in the University of California. He makes his home in La Jolla and has his office on the San Diego campus of the University.

The talk is the first of the Fall, 1962, Faculty Lectures sponsored by the San Diego campus and the Theatre and Arts Foundation of San Diego County. It will be given at 8:00 p.m. in Sherwood Hall, Art Center in La Jolla. The public is invited. Admission is free.

Dr. Urey is a nuclear chemist whose discovery of heavy hydrogen won him a Nobel Prize in 1934; he also made fundamental contributions to production of the atomic bomb through processes for separating the isotopes of the elements.

Prior to his appointment with the University of California, Urey served as Martin A. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor of Chemistry in the University of Chicago's Institute for Nuclear Studies, where he developed techniques for estimating variations in the earth's climates through the geological ages, and theories to explain the chemical nature of the origin of the solar system.

Born in Walkerton, Indiana, in 1893, he graduated from the University of Montana in 1917, where he majored in Zoology. The following year he spent as a research chemist in industry before returning to the University of Montana as an instructor in chemistry. He proceeded with graduate studies in chemistry, receiving his Ph.D. from the University of California in 1923.

In 1923-24 Urey studied atomic physics under Niels Bohr at Copenhagen. He was engaged during the next five years as an associate (about the equivalent of an assistant professor) in Johns Hopkins University; then joined the Department of Chemistry at Columbia.

At Columbia, Dr. Urey began developing the techniques which led to the discovery of the heavy isotope of hydrogen. It was for the discovery of the heavy isotope of hydrogen called deuterium that Urey received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1934. The same year he received the highest honor in American chemistry, the Willard Gibbs Medal.

With the advent of World War II and the atomic bomb project, Dr. Urey sped his investigation of heavy water, which was considered to be one of the possible materials for slowing neutrons in an atomic pile. He simultaneously headed a group which sought methods for separating the U-235 isotope from ordinary Uranium-238.

He served as one of three program chiefs in the Manhattan District Project which conducted research fundamental to the development of the bomb. For his contributions as Director of the war-time Special Alloy Materials Project at Columbia, Urey was awarded a medal of merit by President Truman.

Dr. Urey has been awarded many scientific honors, including honorary Doctor of Science degrees from Princeton, Montana, Newark, Columbia, Oxford, Washington and Lee, Athens, McMaster, Yale, Indiana, Birmingham, Durham, Wayne State, Hebrew Union, and Saskatchewan, as well as honorary LL.D. from University of California and Wayne State University, and Doctor of Humane Letters from Hebrew Union College.

He received the Davy Medal of the Royal Society of London in 1940, the Franklin Medal of the Franklin Institute in 1943, Honor Scroll of the Chicago Institute of Chemists, the Cardoza Memorial Award in 1954, the Joseph Priestley Award, Dickinson College, in 1955; and the Alexander Hamilton Award, Columbia University, in 1961; and the J. Lawrence Smith award of the National Academy of Sciences in 1962.

Dr. Urey also holds memberships in the following foreign groups: The Royal Society (London), The Royal Swedish Academy, The Royal Academy of Sciences, Literature, and the Fine Arts of Belgium, The French Chemical Society, The Christian Michelson Institute of Bergen, The Royal Irish Academy, The National Institute of Sciences of India, The Chemical Society and the Royal Institution of London.