

Dr. Frederic de Hoffmann to speak at Growth Conference

May 20, 1963

Frederic de Hoffmann, president of General Atomic Division General Dynamics Corporation, has joined the list of speakers in the conference "California and the Challenge of Growth: The Impact of Science" which will be held at the San Diego campus of the University of California on June 13 and 14.

Dr. de Hoffmann's topic will be "Atomic Energy-- the Interrelation between Economics and Natural Resources." He joins a panel of experts speaking on "The By-products of Growth." Others are John T. Middleton., University of California, Riverside, speaking on smog, acoustician Leo Beranek, speaking on noise, and another speaker to be announced whose topic will be water supply.

The conference, one of a series being sponsored by the University this year, will present internationally known speakers in the field of science, including two Nobel-prize winners, Harold C. Urey and William Shockley.

The facilities of the division Dr. de Hoffmann heads, General Atomic, comprise the world's largest privately-owned center of nuclear research and development. Dr. de Hoffmann joined General Dynamics in July 1955 after extensive service in key scientific and administrative positions in the United States atomic energy program.

Dr. de Hoffmann is an authority on nuclear reactor theory and high energy nuclear physics and was a member of the team which, during World War II, built and operated the world's first homogeneous reactor known as the "water boiler" at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory.

He received his bachelor, master and doctor degrees in physics at Harvard University where he held several fellowships including a predoctorate award from the U. S. National Research Council.

Dr. de Hoffmann was connected with the Los Alamos Laboratory from 1944 to 1955 and from 1949 to 1951 was deputy to the assistant director at Los Alamos, where his work included studies of delayed neutrons from fissionable materials and other work connected with fundamental reactor constants.

Dr. de Hoffmann has served on various committees of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, as consultant to the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, and as U. S. representative at international conferences dealing with atomic energy. He was one of the United Nation's scientific officials for the First International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1955.

He is a fellow of the American Physical Society, a member of the American Nuclear Society and a member of Sigma Xi, professional scientific fraternity, as well as the author of various scientific books and articles in the field of nuclear energy.

In 1952 and 1953, Dr. de Hoffmann worked with Dr. Hans A. Bethe on meson theory at Cornell University. The two men collaborated with Dr. Silvan S. Schweber on the two-volume study "Mesons and Fields," published in 1955. Dr. de Hoffmann also is co-author of two other books, "The Science and Engineering of Nuclear Power" and "Introduction to Neutron Diffusion Theory," and many articles on nuclear physics.

Dr. de Hoffmann also is president of General Atomic Europe, founded in Zurich, Dusseldorf, Milan, and Vienna.

As president of General Atomic, he has directed the creation and development of advanced-concept systems of power production and energy conversion, including the High Temperature Gas-cooled nuclear reactor (HTGR) for commercial generation of electric power, beryllium oxide-moderated gas-cooled reactors for land-based power production and ship propulsion, the direct conversion of heat to electricity, and the family of inherently-safe TRIGA reactors for research and training.