



ESSA NEWS

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PRESIDENT NOMINATES NEW COMMERCE SECRETARY

President Johnson announced, on Feb. 16, his intention to nominate C.R. Smith, chairman of the board of American Airlines, as Secretary of Commerce. Mr. Smith will succeed Alexander B. Trowbridge, who is resigning as Secretary of Commerce for reasons of health. Mr. Smith has been with American Airlines since 1934, first as vice president, then as president and, since 1964, as board chairman. During World War II, he served as deputy commander of the Army Air Transport Command.

MARCH 1 "TODAY" SHOW TO STAR ESSA

The NBC-TV "Today" show, which daily reaches an audience of approximately eight million people, plans to devote its two hours of program time (7 to 9 a.m. E.S.T.) on March 1, to an ESSA special titled "The Unfriendly Earth." The special will deal with ESSA's functions in the area of natural hazards, particularly tornadoes, earthquakes, hurricanes, and winter storms. Guests on the program will be Dr. Robert M. White, ESSA Administrator; James M. Klaasse, C&GS Associate Director, Seismology and Geomagnetism; Reinhart C. Schmidt, Meteorologist-in-Charge, Weather Bureau Forecast Center, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Robert H. Simpson, Director, WB National Hurricane Center; and Allen Pearson, Director, WB National Severe Storms Forecast Center. The new ESSA film, "Tornado!", will be shown.

CAPTAIN DEANE RETIRES



Captain William F. Deane, first commanding officer of the USC&GSS DISCOVERER, has retired after nearly 38 years of service. His many years aboard 14 ships of the Coast Survey included command of the PIONEER and the DISCOVERER. Other assignments took him to most sections of the United States with Coast Survey field parties. His land duty also included assignments as liaison officer at Fort Sill, Okla.; chief of the Baltimore, Md., and Boston, Mass., C&GS offices; and Coast Survey construction representative in Jacksonville, Fla. Capt. Deane joined the commissioned corps in 1930 after graduation from Texas A & M University.



Robert W. Knecht



Dr. C. Gordon Little



Dr. Ralph J. Slutz

THREE ERL APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Dr. George S. Benton, Director of the ESSA Research Laboratories, announced three new appointments on Feb. 15. Robert W. Knecht was named deputy director of ERL. Dr. C. Gordon Little was appointed Director of ERL's new Wave Propagation Laboratory and consultant to Dr. Benton on research and management. Dr. Ralph J. Slutz was named acting director of the Space Disturbances Laboratory, the post previously held by Mr. Knecht.

As ERL deputy director, Mr. Knecht will supervise day-to-day activities in the Director's office and throughout ERL's 12 laboratories and one institute. Dr. Benton explained that Mr. Knecht will seek to assure the adequacy of research services and programs and will tackle a variety of long-range scientific problems.

Mr. Knecht was graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., with a B.S. in physics in 1949, and later studied for a year at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, England. As director of the Space Disturbances Laboratory, he supervised research relating to man's utilization of the upper atmosphere (the ionosphere) and space. The research is directed toward the prediction of disturbances in space that could disrupt long-range communications and manned travel via lunar spacecraft, earth satellites, and, conceivably, supersonic air transports. He has served on several international committees concerned with worldwide coordination of ionospheric and space research. He is co-holder of the Department of Commerce Gold Medal, for his participation in the Topside Sounder satellite program, a research program designed to explore the ionosphere from above. Mr. Knecht is serving his third term on the Boulder City Council and his second term as mayor of Boulder.

Dr. Little requested his new Wave Propagation Laboratory assignment so that he would be able to devote his activities exclusively to a new field of scientific investigation. The mission of the laboratory, which was established late last year, is: (1) to develop new remote sensing techniques for the lower atmosphere, emphasizing new technological advances such as lasers; and (2) to extend the nation's high frequency, optical, and infrared telecommunications capabilities.

Dr. Little was graduated from the University of Manchester, England, in 1948 and received a Ph.D. in physics from that institution in 1952. He did his graduate work at the University's Jodrell Bank Radio Astronomy Station, where he was in charge of radio star scintillation work, and remained there until 1954 as a senior research worker. From 1954 to 1958, he was deputy director and professor of geophysics at the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska. He joined the National Bureau of Standards in Boulder in 1958 and became director of the bureau's Central Radio Propagation Laboratory in 1962. Dr. Little also holds the Commerce Gold Medal.

Dr. Slutz, acting director of the Space Disturbances Laboratory, has served as a senior scientist and consultant in theoretical physics to the laboratory. He was also program leader of the laboratory's Numerical Forecasting Techniques project. Dr. Slutz has a bachelor's degree and master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During World War II he worked in the Office of Scientific Research and Development. In June 1946, he received a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from Princeton University. He worked at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton from 1946 to 1948 and, in November 1948, joined the National Bureau of Standards as a physicist-electronic scientist with the Electronic Computer Division. Dr. Slutz moved to the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory in Boulder in 1954, and has received the Gold Medal for his work.

SERVICE AWARDS

Length-of-service awards are due to the following WB Eastern Region employees during February: 30 years - Fred H. Swisher, Norfolk, Va.; Vernon T. Houghton, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Robert A. Hoover, WBFC, Suitland, Md.; and Guy C. Anderson, Wilmington, Del. 25 years - Gerald L. Shak, ERH; Lawrence W. Altimar, Boston, Mass.; Harold C. Long, Boston, Mass.; Edward A. Miechowicz, Buffalo, N.Y.; Ab Edward Lay, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Thomas G. Weaver and Wilmer E. Cole, Raleigh, N. C.; Roy J. Vickery, Richmond, Va.; Jack H. Norman, Roanoke, Va.; and Thomas J. Redding, Worcester, Mass. 20 years - Charles W. Kearney, Greenville, S.C.; Nathaniel P. Malcolm, New York; and Joseph D. Paranzino, Wallops Island, Va.

A FOND FAREWELL TO FORM 57

The Government's venerable Form 57, "Application for Federal Employment," is giving way to change. A short, simplified form that will suffice for applicants seeking Federal jobs in the future will take its place. The formidable 4-page Form 57 will be replaced by Form 170, a 4-by-8-inch card that will provide all the basic information needed initially to consider an applicant for a given job. Designed primarily for the use of persons who have passed civil service tests and by Federal employees who are job-hunting, the simplified form permits an applicant to describe briefly the type of job he is seeking, his availability, and his education and work experience. The form provides enough information for a Federal employer to decide whether he is interested in learning more about an individual. If a vacancy exists at a suitable grade level and the applicant seems qualified, the employer must obtain more information before selecting the applicant. To obtain this information, a second new form, Standard Form 171, has been designed. It is called "Personal Qualifications Statement," and is similar in many ways to the current Standard Form 57.

ELSSASER IS NEXT SEMINAR SPEAKER

Professor Walter L. Elssaser, visiting professor of Geophysics at the Institute of Fluid Dynamics and Applied Mathematics, University of Maryland, will present a paper entitled "Geomagnetism and Ocean Bottom Movements," at 10 a.m., Mar. 1, in Room 926, Building 5, Rockville. Interested persons are invited to attend the seminar.

EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING STUDY PUBLISHED

A study of four California earthquakes shows that schools built to resist earthquakes suffered substantially less damage than those built without earthquake-resistant construction. The results of the study, which was conducted jointly by ESSA and the National Bureau of Standards' Technical Analysis Division, have been published in a report titled "A Preliminary Study of Engineering Seismology Benefits."

Items to be considered for ESSA NEWS must be received by Friday for publication the following Friday. Send material to: Office of Public Information, ESSA, Room 804, Bldg. 5, Rockville, Md. 20852. Phone (301) 496-8243.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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