

ADDRESS

W. von Ilsemann

President of the World Petroleum Congresses

Let me welcome you very much to our closing ceremony and thank you for attending. A large congress such as ours should not just end without any ceremony. I believe we should have this brief get-together for several reasons:

First, it is quite legitimate for a participant, his sponsor or even the public—represented by the press—to ask the question, whether it is worthwhile to spend the money for such a gathering in a period of world-wide recession. In this connection, we have to try to give an answer to the question: What are the results of this Congress?

The Chairman of our Scientific Programme Committee, Dr Govier, who is going to address you in a few minutes, will therefore try, to a greater extent than at previous Congresses, to highlight conclusions and results from the sessions of these five days. You will understand that with some 130 papers presented at this Congress, it is not easy to organize the necessary feedback to him within a very short period of time. However, I am sure that Dr Govier has succeeded in doing so and that he will be able to present some interesting aspects.

The second reason for this closing ceremony is that you will wish to be informed of the meeting of the Permanent Council that took place yesterday and, finally, all of us who have come to this country, welcome an opportunity to thank our hosts.

But first of all let me refer back to the question: Has this Congress served its purpose? There are several answers to this; one will be given by the next speaker, as already mentioned. There are other questions, and the Executive Board this morning had an intensive exchange of views on them:

After 50 years, should the Congress continue on the same basic principles?

Should it be opened up beyond its present scientific/technical frame?

Do we have the right format? We have changed it since Bucharest. We introduced for the first time a study group on nomenclature. The Permanent

Council yesterday recommended to the Executive Board that the work of this study group should be continued in order to seek world-wide acceptance of its recommendations. This was endorsed by the Board this morning.

Do we want fewer papers, which could lead to only two parallel sessions? Do we want to omit the very specialized papers?

Did we have an appropriate attendance? Where does the optimum lie? It is a fact that this Congress was attended by fewer people than previous Congresses. Clearly, money has played a role here, partly through the world-wide recession causing cost-saving actions and partly by the level of the registration fee. Although the fee was substantially increased, compared to the last Congress, it is comparable to what you have to pay to attend similar international congresses.

I personally think that the World Petroleum Congresses have served a useful purpose during their 50 years of existence and that they also have—as a matter of principle—their *raison d'être* for the future, certainly with some adaptation. We all know that our industry is undergoing rapid changes and we can realize this in the four years between two Congresses. It is, therefore, useful to have a forum to discuss and be informed on, for instance, the world's supply and demand situation on oil and gas and on rapid technological developments; to promote international contacts; to provide publicity, which will help to keep the public informed on fundamental changes in our industry.

But it is not my view that counts, it is yours. I, therefore, would like to make a strong plea to you to give us your comments on the organization of future Congresses. You can do this by either contacting our Secretariat here in London, or better, by informing your National Committee.

All these questions were also discussed at the meeting of the Permanent Council, which took place yesterday. As you know, you can only play an active

role at the Congress as a presenter of a paper or as a Congress officer, if your country is a member of the Permanent Council. It is also for this reason that I would like to encourage more countries to join the Permanent Council. I am very pleased to inform you that at its meeting yesterday, the Permanent Council elected the following new member countries: Finland, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sweden. This brings the total membership of the Permanent Council to 34 countries.

At yesterday's meeting, the officers for the next period of four years were elected. I am afraid there will be no change of President, as I was the only candidate, but I would like to state that this will be my last period in office. The following Vice Presidents were elected: M. R. Granier de Lilliac (France), Mr A. T. Gregory (UK), Mr M. L. Sharrah (USA), Mr V. I. Igrevsky (USSR).

Our Treasurer, Geoff Dickins, who has served in this capacity for 16 years, did not wish to stand for re-election, and I would like to take this opportunity to express the sincere thanks of the World Petroleum Congresses to him for his successful and important role over so many years, keeping our finances in such good shape. He will be succeeded by Dr Norman White, until now the member of the Executive Board for the UK.

At each Congress the Permanent Council elects from its members, which are not permanent members of the Executive Board, two countries to serve on the Board for one Congress period. For the past four years these were Algeria and Romania. Yesterday Algeria and Argentina were elected.

The venue for the next Congress is an important decision the Permanent Council has to take. For the twelfth Congress three countries had originally offered to be the host: Argentina, Brazil, and the United States of America. However, Brazil withdrew its offer some weeks ago.

The Permanent Council chose Houston as the venue of the twelfth Congress and, at the same time, made a strong recommendation to the Permanent Council of the twelfth Congress that Buenos Aires be elected as host of the Congress in 8 years' time. The reason for this somewhat unusual recommendation is that, so far, there has been no Congress in South America and that Argentina will be offering for the third time to host a Congress.

Those were the decisions of the Permanent Council. Some decisions taken by the Executive Board, this morning, may also be of interest to you: Dr A. R. Martinez of Venezuela was re-elected Deputy Chairman of the Executive Board and the new Chairman

of the Scientific Programme Committee is M P. E. M. Jacquard of France.

The following countries will be members of the Scientific Programme Committee: Austria, Canada, FR Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, UK, USA, and the USSR

These were the decisions for the twelfth Congress in Houston in 1987.

But before this Congress ends, we have many reasons for which to thank our British hosts.

For the first time in the history of the World Petroleum Congresses, a country was host for a second time. For me this is a token that the British oil industry supports the idea of the World Petroleum Congresses and we hope that they will continue to do so in the future, as Britain has an important role to play in the field of oil and gas.

I am sure you will agree with me that the British Organizing Committee under its Chairman, Dan Ion, has undertaken a great task. We wish to congratulate our British colleagues on their very efficient organization. Sincere thanks to Dan Ion, who has had a long-lasting relationship with the World Petroleum Congresses. The Congress in The Hague in 1951 was the first he attended. For Moscow and Tokyo he served very successfully as Chairman of the Scientific Programme Committee; he was a Vice President for two Congresses; and now, for the past four years, he has been Chairman of the Organizing Committee. We have many reasons to thank Dan Ion very much.

No doubt the heaviest workload was carried by Des Curtis, Managing Director of World Petroleum Jubilee Congress Limited. He has, although a retired man, proved to be a very hard worker and an excellent organizer, with a lot of patience. Des, you can be proud of your results. Many thanks.

I would also like to thank the Institute of Petroleum and its President, Mr Gregory, under whose umbrella the Organizing Committee operated.

There are many, many more who have contributed to the organization of this Congress and deserve our thanks. I can only mention a few of them and thank:

- the staff of World Petroleum Jubilee Congress Limited
- the staff of Conference Services Limited
- the interpreters for their difficult and demanding work
- Thomas Cook for all the travel arrangements
- the Barbican staff for their co-operation
- the Press for the interest they have taken
- and then all the unknown helpers.

I would like to end by extending special words of thanks to all who have played an active role in our

scientific programme, be it as presenters of papers, session officers, or scientific secretaries, and in many other ways.

I would now ask the Chairman of the Scientific Programme Committee, Dr George Govier, to present his summary of this Congress. But first, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Govier and his Committee for all the hard work they have done over a period of four years in the preparation of the

scientific frame. This will be Dr Govier's last action, for after a period of two Congresses as Chairman, he will now be retiring.

After Dr Govier, Mr Ion will wind up this ceremony.

Thanks to you all for participating in this Congress.

Good-bye to you all and I hope to see many of you in four years' time in Houston.

