

SPOTLIGHT

on the 27th Annual Hendrik van der Bijl Memorial Lecture

by A.N. BROWN*

The Hendrik van der Bijl Memorial Lecture is arranged annually under the auspices of the Pretoria Engineers Liaison Committee. This is a multidisciplinary Committee with representatives from eleven societies and associations, and serves the interests of engineers resident in the Pretoria area. The member societies are The Engineers Association of SA, The Engineers Division of the SA Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, The Association of Consulting Engineers, and The Institutes of Industrial Engineers, Chemical Engineers, Electrical Engineers, Agricultural Engineers, Aeronautical Engineers, Mechanical Engineers, Civil Engineers, and Mining and Metallurgy. The responsibility for arranging the 1989 Lecture fell on The SA Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.

Mr Hendrik van der Bijl

The First Hendrik van der Bijl Memorial Lecture was delivered in 1963 by Dr M.S. Louw. The lectures are named after Dr Hendrik Johannes van der Bijl (1887-1984) to commemorate the colossal contribution that he made to the scientific and industrial development of South Africa. During his distinguished career, he was the first Chairman of Eskom, the Chairman of Iscor for some twenty years, and Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation. He was instrumental in establishing and developing Amcor for beneficiating base metals,

Dorbyl for heavy engineering, and Safmarine, of which he was also the first Chairman. For the duration of the Second World War, he served as Director General of Supplies. Among all these distinctions, he was also the Chancellor of the University of Pretoria, and the memorial lectures are delivered annually at the University of Pretoria by a leading personality under the general theme 'The Role of Engineering in Society'.

Dr Louw Alberts

The 1989 lecture was delivered on Wednesday, 17th May, in the Van der Bijl Lecture Theatre by Dr Louw Alberts. He is a highly respected leading figure in our society. He was born in 1923 in Port Elizabeth and first studied at Rhodes University. The Ph.D. degree in physics was conferred on him with distinction by the University of the OFS, after which he did post-doctoral research at the Universities of Amsterdam and Sheffield. He was primarily an academic, having served at the University of the OFS and the Rand Afrikaans University as lecturer and as professor.

Dr Alberts has published extensively in the fields of solid-state physics, philosophy of science, science policy, mineral economics, energy planning, theology, and biblical science. He has been the recipient of many prestigious awards, including an Honorary Doctorate in



From right to left: Dr Louw Alberts, Mr C.E. Fivaz, Professor D.M. Joubert, and Dr C.F. Garbers

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Science from the University of the OFS, an Honorary Doctorate in Engineering from the University of Natal, and the State President's Decoration for Meritorious Service. He is a family man whose deep religious commitment is well known through his frequent appearances on television, and he is a prominent speaker and course leader on Christian subjects. He has travelled extensively, and is a member of numerous scientific and technical societies.

1939 Lecture

Dr Alberts chose to entitle his presentation 'Towards a Technology Policy', which turned out to be an inspiring address. In essence, it dealt with technological development, manpower needs, scientific education, promotion of productivity, economic incentives, and the need for a pragmatic, well-defined national technology strategy. The address is published in full elsewhere in this edition of the *Journal*.

The lecture was attended by a mixed audience, which included many distinguished persons. The Rector of the

University of Pretoria, Professor D.M. Joubert, and the Vice-rector, Professor P. Smit, were present, together with several persons who had presented the lecture in previous years. The audience totalled approximately 200 people. The audience sat enthralled while listening to Dr Alberts, and showed their interest by asking many probing questions on this important topic.

The vote of thanks to Dr Alberts was presented by Dr Chris Garbers, President of the revitalized CSIR, who stressed the need for such a technology strategy as the country moves into the twenty-first century. He presented Dr Alberts with a commemorative medallion, which will also be presented to lecturers in the future.

After the lecture, the audience was entertained at a cheese-and-wine party, at which people had the opportunity to talk to Dr Alberts and discuss aspects of the talk with him in greater detail. The Institute is most grateful to the managements of Iscor, Eskom, and Dorbyl, who gave generous financial support to the occasion. A small number of commemorative brochures are still available and can be obtained on request.

Coal preparation

The Japanese Organizing Committee of the 11th International Coal Preparation Congress is now busy making the necessary arrangements for the Congress, which is to be held in Tokyo from 22nd to 26th October, 1990.

It is of special significance that the Congress will be held in Japan, because not only is Japan a major consumer of coal and its derivatives, but it is also the largest importer of coal in the world owing to a significant reduction in its level of coal production compared with earlier levels. In the light of the importance of coal preparation for Japan, as well as for other nations, and in recognition of the recent trend towards the sophistication of coal-preparation technology, the 11th ICPC Congress has the following two goals: to contribute to the advancement of coal-cleaning technology by fostering the dissemination of the most up-to-date and pertinent findings in this field, and to facilitate an interface between coal-preparation and coal-utilization techniques.

As the format for the oral presentations allows for only a limited number of papers to be presented, the decision has been made to supplement this format with poster sessions. This will greatly expand the number of works that can be actively discussed during the Congress. The Japanese Organizing Committee (JOC) and the International Organizing Committee (IOC) will jointly decide upon criteria for the acceptance of papers for oral and

poster presentations in keeping with the above-mentioned objectives of the Congress.

The topics to be covered are as follows:

- Physical and Chemical Cleaning of Coal
- Handling, Transportation, and Storage of Coal
- Process Control and Optimization
- Processing and Conversion of Coal to Induce Enhanced Utilization
- Coal Cleaning for Particular Combustion Technology
- Utilization of Plant Discards and Boiler Ash
- Environmental Control in the Preparation and Utilization of Coal.

The official languages are English, French, German, and Russian.

Further information is available from

The Secretariat

11th International Coal Preparation Congress

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