

Remarks by President James P. Webb at Opening of ASP Convention, 1963

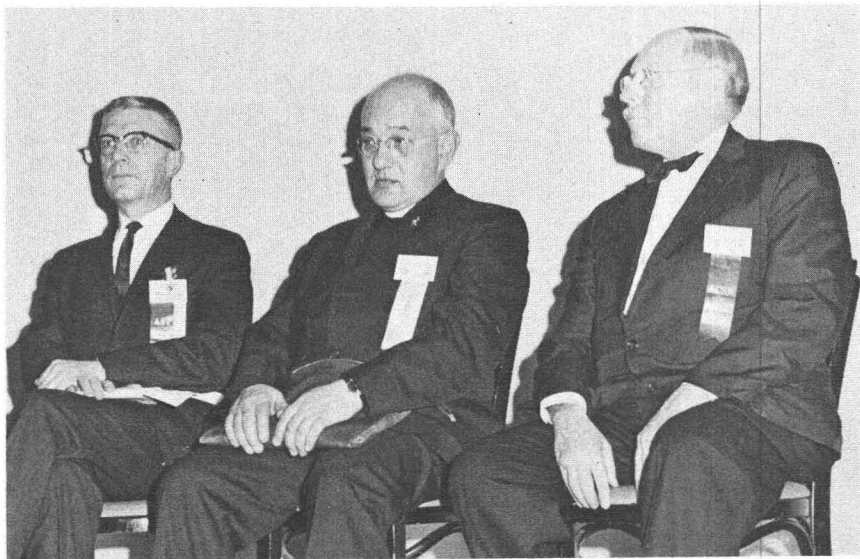
I welcome our members and guests to the 29th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Photogrammetry. We are, this morning, delighted to welcome our members and guests from Brazil, Argentina, Nepal, Germany, Canada, France, Netherlands, Chile, Venezuela, Sweden, Sudan, Colombia, and Japan. I also greet the members of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping and their President, Walter Dix, with whom we are meeting this week. We will be with them as they officially open their meeting tomorrow afternoon.

As our Society enters into its third decade of service, it is appropriate that we pause to take a look, to examine this Society of ours for it is no longer a youngster that can be forgiven the indiscretions of youth. It has achieved an International stature. Our actions, our programs, our publications attract world-wide attention within our professional fields. Each of us must recognize our own individual responsibilities as members of this Society.

As we look at ourselves, we realize that we and our Society have changed during the past 30 years, just as our world has changed since the depression years of the early nineteen thirties. We are still Photo-

grammetrists, but the meaning of the three Greek words that compose our name is not the same as it was 30 years ago. They have been redefined by the same forces that have changed us and the scope of our scientific interests. Today we are not limited to any specific type of censor, procedure, or technique. Neither are we bound by the parameters of an environment, time, mass, or method.

The diverse interests of our membership have defined our Society as one concerned with those sciences applicable to the locating and recording of a physical occurrence or condition by remote means, and the use of these recorded data to position, measure, evaluate, interpret, and to present our findings or discoveries in the form of a survey, a report or a map. Undoubtedly, this definition of the scope of the Society will not please everyone; however, I believe it to be realistic. Our membership is concerned with many scientific disciplines. We must encompass their needs. If we, as a Society, fail to take this growth into account, if we do not reach out and embrace all scientific disciplines applicable to our basic field of endeavor, we will be plagued with continual splintering into smaller groups having limited interests. This will make communica-



Mr. James P. Webb, President of ASP, The Keynote Speaker Reverend Francis J. Heyden, Georgetown University and Mr. Walter Dix, President of ACSM.

tion more difficult and is contrary to our professional interests.

We can all tick-off the names of younger societies that were probably forced into existence by a parent society's failure to recognize the needs of a group of their members. I believe we in ASP have recognized this, as evidenced by the fact that we have reconstituted our primary organization into two major divisions. One of these major divisions is a group of organizations called our Technical Committees. These Technical Committees are composed of certain members who wish to develop and promote a specific scientific field of endeavor. These are our Technical Committees on Photogrammetry for Highways, Photo Interpretation, Computational Photogrammetry, Photogrammetry for Cadastral, Engineering, and Architectural Plans and Urban Planning, and a proposed committee on Photogrammetric Instrumentation. We plan to add additional committees as the need arises.

These technical groups or committees plan and work with those in the second division, which are our Central Committees. They are organized to provide services that include the publication of our JOURNAL, the *Newsletter*, and the Manuals. Another Central Committee arranges for the presentation of papers at meetings such as this one; while other Central Committees collect, organize, and print abstracts, bibliographies, replies to technical inquiry, reports on research, education, etc. The Central Committees which offer these services are our Publications, Meetings, Abstracts, Technical Information, Research, Education, and Nomenclature Committees.

Now, as we take a close look at our Society and its fifty or more separate organizational units, we see that it offers many opportunities to each of us. As a maturing group we can no longer avoid our individual responsibilities.

We must recognize them as opportunities, and we are old enough to know that opportunity means responsibility and that responsibility means work. We also know by now that if we hold our membership cheaply, it has small practical value. What I am trying to say here reminds me of what happened on the golf course on that wonderful one day of Spring we had about a week ago: Bob Quackenbush, Rupe Southard, Jim Butler, and another unnamed person were enjoying a foursome—when Bob hit one into the rough. The ball landed near an ant hill. Bob took a vicious cut at the ball and reduced the local ant population by a few hundred. A second cut practically eliminated all of the ants in the area. One of the remaining ants sized up the situation and called to all of his brothers, "If you want to live—Get on That Ball."

First, we must recognize the trends within our membership, acknowledge these varied interests, and be of real service in their development by providing an organization and those services that are in accord with our general objectives. Second we must seize this as an opportunity to grow and to serve an ever expanding membership. The Society is designed to assist us to help ourselves. We must make the most of this opportunity.

I thank our Annual Meeting Committee for the service they are rendering this week and for the time they and the Technical Committees have spent during the past year preparing for this meeting. I also thank the Publications Committee as they start their preparations for the publication of the papers that are to be presented here. The success of this meeting is now, to a large extent, in your hands. I encourage each of you to use every opportunity for discussion and consultation, for therein lies the superiority of these technical sessions over your reading of these papers in our JOURNAL.