



Top: Max C. Brewer, Director of the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory; John F. Schindler, Assistant Director; Susan Kaplan; Kenny Toovak. Centre: Johna Dickerson; Winston Yelland, Bottom: David Norton; Merle Solomon.

Introduction

T. B. OWEN¹

The Office of Naval Research was charged by the Congress in 1946 with two principal missions: first, the encouragement, planning, promotion, initiation and co-ordination of a program of naval research and, second, the conduct of a research program to augment those conducted by other elements of the Navy. I have characterized the first of these two charges as responsibility for conducting a program of research of opportunity; the second as a program of research of response. By opportunity is meant that we survey the various disciplines of science and attempt to sponsor and encourage research in those that offer promise not only to the Navy, but to other components of the economy as well. The research of response relates to problems arising in development, the solutions to which can only be provided by research. I think we can summarize our responsibilities as an office as being those of providing knowledge and stimulating appreciation.

The Symposium was held in recognition of the construction and dedication of a new facility at the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory at Barrow, Alaska. The Office of Naval Research undertook to support such a laboratory in 1947. In 1954, responsibility for the management and operation of the laboratory was undertaken by the University of Alaska and we are indeed grateful for the support given us at that time by Dr. Ernest Patty, President emeritus, and, of course, more recently by President Wood and the staff and faculty of the University. I would like also to acknowledge the former directors of the laboratory and their wives; their roles in furthering NARL's development are described in "The Story of the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory" which follows these introductory remarks. I certainly want also to express our thanks for the support given us by the Alaskan Command and elements thereof.

The papers presented at the Symposium and published herein cover a spectrum of arctic research involving the terrestrial, the marine and the atmospheric sciences. I think that in these we see the responsibilities of my office being discharged by providing knowledge and, certainly at the laboratory, by applying that knowledge. We hope we are only on the first step of a major program of construction at Barrow so that we can continue to serve and give additional assistance to investigators who want so badly to do work in that very important region.

In the circumstances it is very fitting that we were one of the co-sponsors of this Symposium, and on behalf of the Office of Naval Research and of all the participants at the Symposium I would like to express warm thanks to our host campus, the University of Alaska. We certainly appreciate the cooperation and support that this wonderful institution has given us over a period of years. I think

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this is a tribute to the leadership of Dr. Wood and his predecessors and to the support given to the University by the Board of Regents, the Governors, and by the State Legislature. I would like to thank The Arctic Institute of North America for the continuing interest it has had in working with the Office of Naval Research in the program of arctic environmental research, and more particularly for the excellent arrangements that were made in connection with this Symposium.

I think that I can summarize my feelings by saying that it is a real privilege as Chief of Naval Research to participate in a cooperative program of arctic research in an environment that is so important to Alaska and to the nation with its benefits to our society, our economy and our national security.