



University of California

LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE—Scale model of the new national center for research in science education to be constructed on the Berkeley campus of the University of California.

EDUCATION

Science Education Center

➤ A NATIONAL CENTER for research in science education will be under construction next year on a hilltop site above the Berkeley campus of the University of California. The center will be known as the Lawrence Hall of Science—honoring the late Ernest O. Lawrence, Nobel Laureate and inventor of the cyclotron.

The futuristic design of the massive structural complex by San Francisco architects Anshen and Allen has been selected in a nationwide architectural contest sponsored by the regents of the University of California.

Initial activities at the Hall of Science will be aimed primarily at the improvement of instructional capabilities of science teachers at the high school and college levels and the development of improved teaching methods and materials.

The project is the outgrowth of an idea first suggested by Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, former chancellor at Berkeley and present chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

Alarmed at the acute need for improved science education in the United States, Dr. Seaborg pointed out a unique opportunity for the University of California to aid science teaching and to inspire young people with an interest and understanding of science.

Emphasis will be on research in mass education methods, innovating and testing visual aids, programmed instruction and television.

Planning and development of the center's program is today progressing rapidly under the leadership of Dr. Harvey E. White, director of the Lawrence Hall of Science and noted instructor on the first "Continental Classroom" television series.

Facilities will include model classrooms

and laboratories, "working" exhibitions illustrating discovery techniques in many fields of science, workshops, television studios, and a science information center.

Teachers from all parts of the U.S. are expected to come to the center for semester and summer institutes and specialized training programs.

A \$4 million budget has already been authorized for constructing initial portions (about one-half) of the structure. The funds are derived from gifts and from research contract management fees.

Grants from industry, foundations, and government will support the research and instructional activities in the center's pioneering program.

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EDUCATION

Dean Rusk in State Department Science Class

➤ THE STATE DEPARTMENT has arranged a series of science lessons for its top officials with Secretary of State Dean Rusk at the head of the class.

At the first session held in the new State Department building, Dr. I. I. Rabi, 1944 Nobelist in physics and professor at Columbia University, briefed Secretary Rusk and other Department members on nuclear physics, quantum mechanics, molecular beams and magnetism. He explained these complex subjects in simple, non-technical terms and presented his views on their role in international affairs.

Numbered among those present was Dr. Ragnar Rollefson, newly appointed director of International Science Affairs for the Department, whose office arranged the seminar. The idea for a science school for

statesmen originated with Dean Rusk last June.

The Secretary, a distinguished educator himself, was formerly dean of the faculty at Mills College, as well as president of the Rockefeller Foundation. At his request, Department scientists prepared a list of authorities in various fields of science who, in addition to their professional knowledge, also were well versed in foreign affairs. Another requirement upon which selection of the educators was based is that they possess the ability to transmit their knowledge so that it can be absorbed by intelligent laymen untrained and unschooled in science.

Not all of the science instructors chosen are Nobelists or public figures, an official of the Department of State said. Their names will not be made public until they have accepted the invitation to advance science learning of Administration leaders.

The first class, which lasted one and a half hours, was a success for both teacher and pupils. Indications are that the language of science now will be a regular part of training for U.S. foreign service officers.

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EDUCATION

Universities Plan New City Extension Programs

➤ UNIVERSITIES may soon have "urban agents" similar to the county agents who have been operating in rural areas for more than 100 years.

A new extension program supported in ten university institutions by Ford Foundation grants turns its attention on city problems. Its plan is one of bringing together state highway, county government, urban corporations and state planning committees, to coordinate their resources with the universities.

The program represents a shift in focus from training the individual as is done in the agricultural extension education to working with entire communities.

The urban programs will provide a laboratory for university social science departments like those with which medical groups work. A university staff member defines a problem with a local government official, takes it back to the university for development of a research project and reports the findings to the community. One Rutgers University project is determining in Newark, N. J., inhibiting factors in children's learning from elementary through secondary education.

Educators who discussed the urban extension project at the Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges meeting in Washington, D.C., included Dr. Fred H. Harrington, president of the University of Wisconsin; Dr. Paul H. Sheats, dean of university extension, University of California; Dr. Mason W. Gross, president of Rutgers University, and Dr. John A. Perkins, president of the University of Delaware.

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