

GENERAL SCIENCE

Warless World?—Oppenheimer

The 1963 Enrico Fermi Medal was presented to Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer who has made far-reaching contributions to the advancement of theoretical physics.

► **WHETHER MEN** can live "without war as the great arbiter of history" is to Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, the 1963 Enrico Fermi medalist, being tested in what he termed "this great enterprise of our time."

In his acceptance remarks when receiving the award of gold medal, citation signed by the late President Kennedy, and a tax-free \$50,000 at the White House (Dec. 2) from the hands of President Johnson, Dr. Oppenheimer said our times are determining "whether men can both preserve and enlarge life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" and still live without war.

Dr. Oppenheimer said:

"In his later years, Jefferson often wrote of the 'brotherly spirit of science, which unites into one family all its votaries of whatever grade, and however widely dispersed throughout the different quarters of the globe.' A few days before his death, with the bitter war still far from ended, and the new bomb not many months away, Roosevelt quoted these words, and said, 'today we are faced with the pre-eminent fact that, if civilization is to survive, we must cultivate . . . the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together and work together, in the same world, at peace.'

"We have not, I know, always given evidence of that brotherly spirit of science. This is not because we lack vital common or intersecting scientific interests. It is in part because, with countless other men and women, we are engaged in this great enterprise of our time, testing whether men can both preserve and enlarge life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and live without war as the great arbiter of history. In this enterprise, no one bears a greater responsibility than the President of the United States. I think it just possible, Mr. President, that it has taken some charity and some courage for you to make this award today. That would seem to me a good augury for all our futures."

Dr. Oppenheimer wrote his acceptance remarks before the tragedy of Kennedy's death when it was expected that the late President would make the presentation.

The reference to the charity and courage in giving the award recalls that despite his major contributions to the atomic bomb development, Dr. Oppenheimer's security clearance was cancelled by the Atomic Energy Commission in a controversial situation that even now caused Republican members of the Congressional Joint Committee on Atomic Energy to absent themselves from the award ceremony. The seventh Fermi award was made to Dr. Oppenheimer by unanimous action of the AEC general advisory committee consisting

of some of the most eminent scientists of the nation. The award is an official act of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Dr. Oppenheimer made far-ranging and profound contributions to the advancement of theoretical physics. He played a unique role in the development of physics in the United States, as a teacher, as an originator of several fundamental concepts, and as the administrator under whose leadership the atomic bomb was successfully developed at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory during World War II.

Dr. Oppenheimer has been Director of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, N. J., since 1947. He was chairman of AFC's general advisory committee from 1947 through 1952.

Dr. Fermi was the first person to receive an award under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and the Commission decided that subsequent awards should bear his name. The six previous Fermi award winners were:

The late Dr. John von Neumann, mathematician and member of the Atomic Energy Commission; the late Dr. Ernest O. Lawrence, who was director of the radiation laboratory, University of California, which bears his name; Dr. Eugene P. Wigner, Nobelist and professor of mathematical physics, Princeton University; Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, Chairman of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, who was chancellor of the University of California when he received the award; Dr. Hans A. Bethe, professor of physics at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.; and Dr. Edward Teller, associate director of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory at Berkeley, Calif.

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Cape Canaveral Renamed For the Late President

► **AS A TRIBUTE** to the late President John F. Kennedy and his dreams of U. S. preeminence in space, Cape Canaveral has been renamed Cape Kennedy by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

President Johnson in his Thanksgiving address to the nation said that to honor the memory of the slain President "and the future of the works he started, I have today determined that Station No. One of the Atlantic Missile Range and the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Launch Operation Center in Florida shall hereafter be known as the John F. Kennedy Space Center. . . .

"I have also acted today, with the understanding and the support of my friend, the

Governor of Florida, Farris Bryant, to change the name of Cape Canaveral. It shall be known hereafter as Cape Kennedy."

President Kennedy had made several trips to the space center, the last on Nov. 16, just six days before his assassination.

The city council of Cape Canaveral has protested the renaming and has questioned the authority of President Johnson to change the 450-year-old name.

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CHEMISTRY

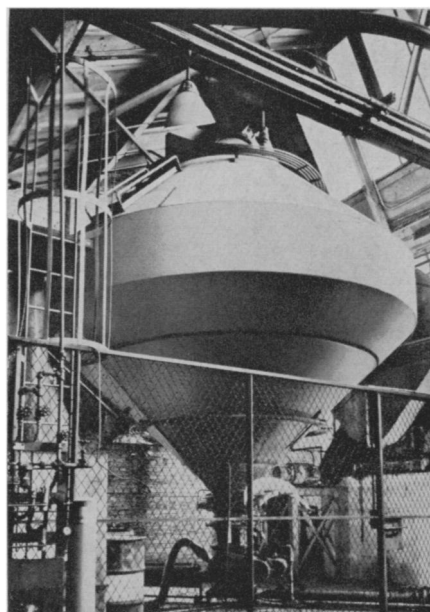
Uranium Compound For High-Temperature Uses

► **A LONG-KNOWN** compound of uranium not previously tested for its high-temperature reactions has been found promising for use in nuclear reactors.

The compound is uranium monophosphide. It was tested in a search for materials without oxygen that are resistant to high temperatures for possible use in nuclear reactors.

Uranium monophosphide is stable up to temperatures of 6,500 degrees Fahrenheit, three U.S. scientists reported in *Nature*, 200:774, 1963. The scientists who did the tests are Drs. J. Efimenko of the National Bureau of Standards, and P. K. Lee and K. A. Gingerich of Pennsylvania State University.

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Union Carbide

DOUBLE-CONED BLENDER—This huge top-like blender developed by Union Carbide Corporation's plastic division uniformly mixes 30,000 pounds of Bakelite phenolic materials at one time reducing molding time as much as five percent.