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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS — OCEANS 87

OCEANS 87 is the thirteenth OCEANS Conference since the Marine Technology Society and the IEEE, working through an earlier form of the Oceanic Engineering Society, first joined forces in 1975 to organize this technical forum.

This is the first occasion, however, when the Conference has been held outside the United States, and our meeting here in Canada is significant in giving strength to the perspective of a united North American interest among the scientists and engineers whose professional interests are directed toward the ocean. I am especially delighted, speaking as an officer of the Oceanic Engineering Society and as a member of the IEEE Technical Activities Board, to express our thanks to the local committee for inviting us to meet in Halifax, and to be able to greet fellow members of IEEE and of OES who may not have had the opportunity to attend a previous OCEANS Conference. I would also like to mention that, before joining with MTS for the OCEANS series, the IEEE had held a conference here in Halifax called Engineering in the Ocean Environment. That conference was a predecessor of the current OCEANS series, and the sponsoring entity within IEEE was a group called the Oceanographic Coordinating Committee, a predecessor of our present Oceanic Engineering Society.

The IEEE, although incorporated as not-for-profit within the United States, views itself quite definitely as a transnational organization. It has close to 300,000 members, from throughout the world. In addition, it supports over 30 professional societies, of which OES is one, and many of our sister societies have held their conferences in countries throughout the world. It is my hope that this transnational policy of the IEEE will help someday to carry an OCEANS conference away from North America, across one of our oceans.

Finally, a few words primarily to the OES members. Our membership is holding steady just under 2000. Our budget is on-track, and our fiscal health is good. Our journal, I feel, is outstanding, and credit for that goes entirely to our Editor, Stan Ehrlich. My primary hope as president has been to stimulate the strengthening of our technical identity through more vigorous sponsorship of technical workshops.

One fruit of that effort is that in January of 1988 there will be a specialty workshop in Monterey, California, devoted to Instrumentation and Measurements in the Polar Regions. This effort was organized jointly by Dennis Douglas, a member of the OES AdCom and by Warren Denner, a member of MTS.

