



Norman Hilberry¹

Dr. Norman Hilberry, now retired, was formerly director of Argonne National Laboratory, one of the principal research and development centers in the field of nuclear science and engineering in the United States. The Laboratory is operated by the University of Chicago for the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

Dr. Hilberry's association with the nuclear energy program began late in 1941 when, as personal aide, he joined Dr. A. H. Compton who had just been designated as project director for the Metallurgical Project, later known as the Plutonium Project. In this capacity Dr. Hilberry was associated with the group under Fermi which first achieved a self-sustaining, controlled nuclear chain reaction on December 2, 1942. As associate project director of the Metallurgical

Project, he acted as the project office's representative at Clinton Laboratories during the start-up of the X-10 reactor in the Fall of 1943. Starting in the summer of 1944 he served (again in his capacity as associate project director) as head of the resident project group which provided the official liaison between the DuPont organization and the Metallurgical Project during the start-up of the production facilities at the Hanford Engineer Works.

With the successful operation of Hanford an accomplished fact, Dr. Hilberry returned to the Metallurgical Project office during the winter of 1945. After Dr. Compton's move to St. Louis as Chancellor of Washington University in July, 1945, he took over the closing out of the affairs of the central project office. During this period he assisted the Manhattan District of the U. S. Corps of Engineers in the establishment of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies and the Brookhaven National Laboratory, and in the reorganization of the existing laboratories on a permanent basis. He was particularly concerned with the reconstitution of the Metallurgical Laboratory, housed on the University of Chicago campus, and the Argonne Forest Laboratory, situated in the Palos Park Forest Preserve, into a single unified Argonne National Laboratory which could serve both as a national center for the prosecution of the government's own program of nuclear research and development and as a regional center for the support of university activities in these and allied fields. Dr. Hilberry served as associate director of the new laboratory from its founding July 1, 1946 to 1949. In 1949, he was appointed deputy director. He served as director of Argonne from June, 1956, until November, 1961.

Prior to joining the Metallurgical Project, Dr. Hilberry had been a member of the faculty of New York University, serving at Washington Square College from 1925 to 1928 and at University Heights from 1928 to 1942. In addition to his teaching he carried on research in cosmic rays, discharge of electricity through gases and physical optics. He was a member of the University of Chicago—U.S. State Department Cosmic Ray Research Expedition to Latin America in 1941.

He received his A.B. degree from Oberlin College and his Ph.D. degree in Physics from the University of Chicago. He has been granted the LL.D. degree

¹Norman Hilberry will present the Fifth Annual Lecture—Nuclear Pioneer Series honoring Lord Rutherford at the 11th Annual Meeting, Society of Nuclear Medicine, Berkeley, California, June 19, 1964.

by Elmhurst College and by Marquette University and the D. Sc. degree by Monmouth College.

In addition to his duties as scientific administrator, Dr. Hilberry has been active in a number of closely associated fields. He has devoted considerable attention to the proper philosophy of management in the operation of research organizations and in the development of suitable implementing administrative techniques. His 1953 report on this subject is still in demand.

He has taken an active interest in educational affairs throughout his service to the Laboratory. From the very inception of the Laboratory he emphasized its educational potentials and supported those activities which gave promise of bringing such latent educational benefits to active realization. He has contributed widely both to science teacher programs and to youth science activities. Since relinquishing his administrative duties, he has devoted much of his attention to the educational responsibilities of the governmental agencies, in particular those of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. These findings have been reported in "Education and Technological Progress: The Role of Education and Training in the Program of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission."

Dr. Hilberry's educational interests have never been confined, however, to the formal scholastic form of endeavor. Recognizing the responsibility of a tax-supported institution for reporting its progress and accomplishments to its stockholders, the taxpayers, he initiated and supported many public education activities. As the technical program began to come to full technical fruition and thus progress began to hinge ever more definitely on public acceptance of its fruits, these public education efforts were broadened and intensified with his active assistance. He has long filled the role of a public education missionary to his colleagues in the field.

His public education activities have extended beyond the field of nuclear energy. He has, in addition, served as an advisor to the National Science Foundation for its program on the public understanding of science. In this same connection he has taken active part in NSF sponsored seminars on science education through the agency of the mass media of communication.

Dr. Hilberry has also been active in international affairs. He organized and served as first director of Argonne's International School of Nuclear Science and Engineering. This organization has served as a principal instrument in the Nation's Atoms for Peace Program and has furnished specialized nuclear training to over six hundred students from abroad since its founding in 1955. Dr. Hilberry also served as the leader of the International Atomic Energy Agency's first field mission. This group surveyed the atomic energy programs of seventeen of the twenty Latin American countries in the summer of 1958, reporting to the I.A.E.A. Dr. Hilberry then led the United States presentation of its Power Reactor Program at the 1958 Geneva Conference. He also served on the U. S. State Department's Smyth Committee for review of the national policy with regard to the International Atomic Energy Agency in 1962. He has not only advised with many of the foreign national Atomic Energy agencies with respect to their programs as part of his official duties at the Laboratory, but has served as consultant to both the Japanese Atomic Energy Commission and to the Argentine Atomic Energy Commission, visiting Japan in 1961 and Argentina in 1962 for on-the-site inspections and discussions.

Dr. Hilberry holds membership in the following professional societies: The American Society for Engineering Education; Atomic Industrial Forum (director, 1961-); American Physical Society (Fellow); American Association for the Advancement of Science (Fellow); New York Academy of Science (Fellow); American Nuclear Society (Fellow—director 1958-1961); Scientific Research Society of America (governor 1956-1959), Sigma Xi.