



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Centennial chairperson reviews celebration

by Thomas P. Bowles

One of the most satisfying experiences of my professional career was the four years during which I served as Chairperson of the Steering Committee for the 1989 Centennial Celebration of the Actuarial Profession in North America. During that long planning period, the five members of the committee contributed a substantial part of their time to the Celebration.

Two original members of the committee, Robert C. Winters and C. S. (Kit) Moore, were subjected to such intense pressures in their companies that they persuaded the remaining three of the committee to replace them with equally dedicated actuaries. Thus, the final five remained aboard for three years until the finale in Washington on June 12-14. The other four were Edwin F. Boynton, Harry D. Garber, John R. Gardner and M. Stanley Hughey.

There were six standing committees at work during these four years. Each played an important role in the planning; each committee was assigned to a member of the Steering Committee to assure communications, liaison and monitoring. The chairpersons of the six standing committees were:

1. Edward H. Friend, Finance
2. Robin B. Leckie, Program
3. George D. Morison, Public Relations & Promotion
4. Richard S. Robertson, Meeting Arrangements and International Visitors
5. Robert D. Shapiro, Special Events
6. Mavis A. Walters, Tours & Activities

There is a consensus that Robin Leckie and his program committee had the toughest job, and their performance was absolutely spectacular.

In the early phase of the planning, Erich Parker, Director of Public Information of the American

Academy of Actuaries, contributed the initial concept of both the opening audio-visual and the development of a public relations strategy. Staff support was later transferred to the Society of Actuaries. Chelle Brody, Assistant to the Executive Director, did a magnificent job in "managing" the Celebration. Linda Delgadillo, Director of Communications, and Diana Montgomery, Staff Editor of *The Actuary*, put together the opening audio-visual that dramatized the 100-year history of the profession. The Steering Committee is also indebted to John O'Connor, Executive Director of the Society, who, in his own quiet efficient way, supported the staff in its invaluable contribution to the Centennial.

The Celebration is history. The music and the beat of the drum have retreated into the shadows of our first 100 years. It's not the end — it's the beginning. Whither goest thou?

Thomas P. Bowles, a Past President of the Society, is with Tillinghast/Towers Perrin.

CIA task force looks to future

by J. Dickson Crawford

(Ed. note: J. Dickson Crawford, a Past President of the CIA, chairs the Task Force on the Future of the CIA. Its charge is to identify key issues for the development of the CIA in the 1990s, including the implications for the CIA of possibilities for the restructuring and strengthening of the actuarial profession in North America.)

The Task Force on the Future of the CIA has a mandate to study critical issues for the future of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries in 1990 and throughout the next decade. A special part of this is to look at the interaction of the CIA and the other actuarial bodies in North America.

The task force members believe it important to emphasize that the CIA is both a public interface body and a member-service organization. This duality of purpose, which has existed from the CIA's beginning in 1965, has given it the strength to grow in stature

with regulators and achieve high levels of participation by the membership.

Nevertheless, this dual purpose can periodically produce strains and competing priorities. We believe it is timely for the CIA to restate its purpose and guiding principles so such issues can be resolved as they develop. The task force will suggest a set of priorities, which will be open for thorough debate by Council and at general meetings in 1990, so any change can have full membership support.

A prominent issue is the future qualification methods and standards for the CIA. This primarily involves basic education and examination but also extends into related issues: using university courses as an alternative to some of the exams, the timing and nature of a Fellowship Admission Course for the CIA, and the scope of recommended continuing education after Fellowship.

In these areas, we in Canada are very conscious of the value of cooperative efforts with the Society of Actuaries and the Casualty Actuarial Society. Most commentaries received by the task force support the continuation of these cooperative efforts and suggest that any necessary

Canadian differences be considered very carefully before striking out alone. It is also important that Canadian actuaries are qualified by a system demonstrably Canadian in design and administration.

Over recent years we have received a sympathetic response on these issues from the SOA and CAS. We have developed more Canadian content in the exams and support for our guiding principle that every newly qualified actuary receives a basic grounding in all branches of actuarial fundamentals, whether life, health, pension or casualty.

Other issues being studied for presentation to the membership include our future role in research, fields of activity for actuaries, and the involvement of the CIA in public policy issues in Canada.

Our report was received by the CIA Council at its November meeting. The Executive Committee and Council are considering which issues need further study and undoubtedly will ask the program committee to include these issues in the general membership meetings of the CIA during its 25th anniversary in 1990.

J. Dickson Crawford is President and Chief Executive Officer, Maritime Life Assurance Company.