



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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News conference draws media attention to Centennial

by Diana Montgomery

Seventeen reporters representing such publications as *Barron's*, the *Washington Post* and the *Journal of Commerce* attended a news briefing June 13 spotlighting the Centennial.

Held at the Capital's National Press Club, the news briefing was moderated by James J. Murphy, Executive Vice President of the American Academy of Actuaries. Five other actuaries representing the health, casualty, life, pensions and employee benefits areas discussed trends in their fields and summarized papers delivered during the celebration.

Murphy briefed reporters on the Task Force Report on the Actuary of the Future, saying that demand for actuaries now exceeds the supply and that it will continue to increase as actuaries move into nontraditional areas. Murphy also referred to a recent survey of life insurance CEOs in which 95.7% said they were satisfied with actuaries and their work and 68.2% saw a need for a greater number of actuaries in the future.

Reporters crowd a room at the National Press Club for a news briefing spotlighting the Centennial and actuarial issues. Speakers are, from left, Bartley Munson, Robert Brown, James Murphy, Yuan Chang, Robert Sturgis and Barnet Berin.



Bartley Munson of Mercer-Meidinger-Hansen, Inc., and Robert Brown of the University of Waterloo addressed the future of healthcare. Barnet Berin, Chief Actuary of Mercer-Meidinger-Hansen, briefed reporters on the paper he co-authored, "The Effect of Mortality Rates on Women's Role in Society."

Robert Sturgis of Tillinghast/Towers Perrin released figures on "The Cost of the Tort System," and Yuan Chang, Vice President of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, talked about "Preparing the Continent for a Graying Population." Chang urged the federal government to use a "Generational Equity Index" to measure how well the working population is preparing for its retirement years.

The press briefing, which gave reporters an indication of the breadth of the role of the actuary, is part of the "Forecast 2000" Centennial public relations campaign supported by the five sponsoring Centennial organizations. The campaign's purpose is to increase public understanding of the role of the actuary.

The Centennial in historical perspective

How does the founding in 1889 of North America's first actuarial organization fit into world actuarial history? Here's a partial listing of non-North American actuarial organizations and their founding dates:

- 1848 – Institute of Actuaries
London
- 1856 – Faculty of Actuaries
Edinburgh
- 1888 – Actuarieel Genootschap
Amsterdam
- 1892 – Institut des Actuairees Francais
Paris
- 1895 – Association Royale des
Actuairees Belges/Koninklijke
Vereniging van Belgische Actuarissen
Brussels
- 1899 – The Institute of Actuaries
of Japan
Tokyo
- 1901 – Den Danske Aktuarforening
Lyngby, Denmark
- 1904 – Den Norske Aktuarforening
Oslo
- 1904 – Svenska Aktuarieföreningen
Stockholm
- 1905 – Association of Swiss Actuaries
Zurich
- 1922 – Suomen Aktuaariyhdistys
Helsinki
- 1929 – Instituto Brasileiro de Atuaria
Rio de Janeiro
- 1929 – Actuarial Society of India
Bombay
- 1929 – Istituto Italiano degli Attuari
Rome
- 1929 – Asociacion Mexicana
de Actuarios
Mexico
- 1933 – Association des Actuairees
Diplomes de l'Institut de Science
Financiere et d'Assurances
Paris
- 1942 – Instituto de Actuarios
Espanoles
Madrid
- 1948 – The Actuarial Society of
South Africa
Cape Town
- 1948 – Deutsche Gesellschaft fur
Versicherungsmathematik
Hamburg