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1,248 Papers to Be Given

NA Chemical Congress Opens in Mexico City

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MEXICO CITY — Nearly 4,000 chemists from Canada, Mexico and the U. S. are gathering for the First Chemical Congress of the North American Continent, which opened here Monday.

The chemists and chemical engineers from the three countries, and guests from other countries, are here to exchange information on current research and common problems. Predominant themes running through the 1,248 papers to be given are common pollution problems, upgrading food and agricultural practices, better drugs and understanding of the chemical basis of diseases, ew educational practices, natural resources, and a common concern about cancer-causing agents in the environment.

For instance, good news about nitrogen fixation, important to agriculture, bad news about marijuana, and a multitude of news about various pollutants in the waters of the three countries will be presented.

Sponsors of Congress

The Congress is sponsored by the American Chemical Society (ACS), the pharmaceutical Association of Mexico (APM), The Chemical Institute of Canada (CIC), the Mexican Institute of Chemical Engineers (IMIQ), and the Mexican Chemical Society (SQM).

The president of the Congress is Dr. Jorge Louis Orie of the Mexican Chemical Society, chairman of the Joint Management Team is Al Winstead of the American Chemical Society, and coordinator of the scientific program is Dr. Pedro A. Lehmann F. of the Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico.

One of the Congress highlights will be held on Wednesday afternoon, when the only Congress event is a symposium of five Nobel Prize winners of Spanish, Canadian, and U. S. origin. Each will discuss a subject of his own choice. Participating will be Dr. Ochoa, Drs. Glenn T. Seaborg and Donald Glaser, both of the University of California, Berkeley, Dr. Gerhard Herzberg of the National Research Council of Canada in Ottowa, and Dr. Paul J. Flory of Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif.

The men responsible for initiating the Mexican steroid industry will be presented with an award for his scientific contributions to mankind at the closing ceremonies on Friday, Dec. 5. Russell Marker had discovered an easy route from plentiful Mexican plant steroids to progesterone, an important ingredient in oral contraceptives for females, and became one of the original three founders of Syntex.

Many scientific reports of significance and interest to the general public will be presented at the meeting. The unhealthy aspects of marijuana smoke, the toxic ingredient in PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls), the [illegible] of PCB's in Mexico City's [illegible], the impact of the "green revolution," Mexican weeds and desert plants of common value, Mexican natural resources, up-to-date information on the spray propellant-ozone controversy, and the logic of Aztec medicine will be described.

A chemical exposition showing the latest in chemical equipment and literature will be held in Lomas Hall of the Camino Real from Nov. 30 to Dec. 4.

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