ANNUAL MEETING

Arthur C. Holden was elected President at the Chapter's Annual Luncheon on June 7. Messrs. Hutchins, Langmann and Frost, Jr. were re-elected Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively, and Walter H. Kilham, Jr. was elected Recorder. New members of the Executive Committee are Irvin L. Scott and Perry Coke Smith. Robert B. O'Connor, retiring President, was also elected to the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Holden's election to the Presidency.

We quote below from Mr. Holden's remarks on assuming his new office:

"When a young man graduates from the United States Military Academy at West Point, he receives a commission in the U.S. Army. Beginning on a small scale, he becomes as Second Lieutenant a commander of men. The responsibility of the army officer for leadership increases progressively as he is given specific promotions.

"In contrast, when a young man graduates from a school of architecture, he receives a degree but he does not have a commission awaiting him. Even on a small scale he is not a commander of men. The architect goes into the ranks of citizenry. Do you remember the cry that Kipling put into the mouth of the soldier 'gentleman ranker': 'God help us for we knew the worst too young'? I have heard a cry from architect 'gentlemen rankers' which has sounded to me surprisingly like 'God help us for we knew the best too young'.

"Any man, whether he has served in the ranks as soldier or architect, knows that he cannot at once rebuild the world or even a small part of it according to his desires. The professional man must demonstrate that he can perform valuable services before he is given the opportunity to put his abilities and training to constructive use.

"In due course we shall consult together to organize ourselves for service. But before we can effectively organize, there are obstructions which must be cleared away. Both our own vision and that which the public has of us, have been obscured by a misinterpretation of architecture. By resorting to a literary plagiarism, we can gain a new weapon that ought to be enlightening. Let us use this weapon together to attack the "Architectural Fallacy".

"Bernard DeVoto, in a penetrating book called "The Literary Fallacy", attacks the thesis that the culture of a period is enshrined in its literature, and that literary men are the keepers of the seal, the priests of the temple, the interpreters of the civilization of their period.

"Have we architects had a similar vision of ourselves?

"Mr. DeVoto, in reviewing some of the so-called representative authors of the 1920s, credits them with being able craftsmen, but shows that they were unaware of some of the great movements of the time and thus hardly interpreters of its culture. He reveals them as more interested in mirroring their own souls than in delving into and understanding the culture of the 1920s. Literature, he points out, may shut itself up in an ivory tower and get out of tune with the life and culture of a period.

"We in architecture must not be guilty of the same fault. Cast your eyes upon the facades of Park Avenue or of a typical main street. It is clear that the designers are trained craftsmen. We suspect they may have walked through Spain, bicycled in France and motored through Italy. The architect draftsman knows how to put a building together just as the literary craftsman knows how to put a book together. I include in this the so-called modernists who evidently have studied the architectural magazines.

"But this type of accomplishment does not reveal coherence. We must increase our contacts with the community if we would realize our ambition to help mould
and interpret the community. We must dig in deeper to get at the roots. We must form new contacts. The day has gone when the professions can be regarded as mysteries to be practiced in water-tight compartments.

"The times cry out for an understanding of life and the forces which are molding it. Let us make our first passion the passion to understand. We may thus learn how and where to apply our technical skills. If we understand our fellow men, we will learn how to serve them. If we can make them feel that we understand, it will be they who will call upon us, and who will demand of us that we do our best."

TINELY WARNING

Some of the members of the New York Chapter have had and are having difficulty with the Wages and Hour and Public Contracts Division of the U.S. Department of Labor in regard to certain provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. The principal difficulty arises from a difference of opinion as to which employees in an architect's office are entitled to time and a half and double time for overtime.

The Fair Labor Standards Act is far from clear as to its application to the architectural and engineering professions. Until some clear definition is reached, the members of our profession who employ others may be in jeopardy financially.

The Executive Committee of the Chapter has decided to refer the matter to the national organization of the American Institute with a request that action be taken to obtain clarification of the Act.

Max E. Foley, Chairman Committee on Fees and Contracts

HONORARY ASSOCIATE

The Executive Committee, acting on the recommendation of the Chapter's Committee on Awards, has nominated Major Irving V.A. Huie for election to Honorary Associate membership in the Chapter.

Major Huie is Commissioner of Public Works of the City of New York. As an engineer, he has for many years been actively interested in the growth and economic development of our City and particularly of late in its Postwar Planning program.

He has visited the Chapter on a number of occasions and is well known to many of our members.

Under our By-Law provisions, you are hereby notified that the election of Mr. Huie will take place at the first autumn meeting of the Chapter.

CANDIDATES

The following names have been submitted for Institute membership:

1. Charles Akers Bradbury
   Sponsors: Lester Tichy
   Lewis G. Adams

2. Joseph N. Boaz
   Sponsors: Morris Ketchum
   Henry L. Ramphoefner

3. S. Walter Katz
   Sponsors: Othmar Krauss
   Lionel Levy

4. Harry S. Kohl
   Sponsors: Otto Teegen
   Max Foley

5. Alfred Charles Shaknis
   Sponsors: Wm. Lescaze
   Edwin Forbes

6. Konrad Wachsmann
   Sponsors: Elsa Gidoni
   Walter Gropius

7. Julian Hill Whitlessy
   Sponsors: Wm. Lescaze
   Robert "Sinberg"

8. Oscar F. Tiggins
   Sponsors: Wallace K. Harrison
   J. A. Fouilhoux

9. Paul Zucker
   Sponsors: Esmond Shaw
   Morris Senders

A SUMMING UP by ROBERT B. O'CONNOR

"Last June, in outlining what might have been called a program for the year, I said: 'We in the Chapter must continue the process of organizing the profession into a common Institute. We must increase in every way possible our technical competence. We must take a constructive part in the critical problems of our time and community. And we must constantly improve the effectiveness of architectural service as well as public awareness of its value.' "I should like to consider the activities of the past twelve months in those general terms."

"The unification of the profession is a most important program. The growth in economic development of our City and particularly of late in its Postwar Planning program."

He has visited the Chapter on a number of occasions and is well known to many of our members. In this particular area we have a number of separate architectural organizations
some of considerable size and all of them with their individual aims and traditions. The progress of the Institute towards uni-

fication must give recognition to this sit-

uation and we must draw these other socie-
ties into the A.I.A. by suasion and common

undertakings. It is my suggestion that the

New York Chapter should make a deliberate

policy of inviting the Officers and Execu-
tive Committees of all of these societies to a series of programs during the year

which are of general professional interest.

To certain meetings perhaps all of the mem-

bership of these groups should be asked.

If we represent the Institute properly our

activities cannot fail to interest anyone

practicing architecture, and this community

of interest will more effectively unite our

organizations than any other factor.

"As the Technical Committee has stated

on many occasions, its purpose is mainly

educational and it aims at improving the

architect's understanding and constructive

interest in the technical aspects of our

profession. This is of vital importance,

because the professional competence of our

members is the foundation stone of our

value to society and the only lasting basis

for public recognition.

"The work of the Legislative Committee

has so far been largely negative, in the

direction of staving off attacks from

sources which would limit or expropriate

our field of practice. We must, I believe,

move from the negative to the positive and

prepare ourselves, through our contribu-
tions to the public counsels, for the in-

finitely more important and valuable role

of initiating worthwhile public action,

whether by legislation or by civic initi-

ative. This must be done with due atten-
tion to economy of time and of cost. But

beyond that it is by taking our place in

the discussion of urban redevelopment of

housing, of prefabrication, of building
codes and zoning ordinances, that we shall

prove to the public the need for the archi-

tect's training and experience.

"In the Chapter's service to the profes-
sion several matters must receive earnest

and effective attention. We have the ques-
tion of working conditions and salaries for

employees for which some viable program

should be developed or we may find ourselves

in the postwar world with a program forced

upon us. We have a solution to find for

the civil service problem. How can the pub-
lic interest be properly served by adequate

forces without the historic evils of bureau-

cracy? We have provision to make for the

simple, prompt and friendly return to

architectural pursuits of those in war

service, and it will not be easy.

"We should set up a more comprehensive

and more realistic basis of charges for

the expanding requirements of architec-
tural practice. And we shall definitely

have to work out the means for improving

our public relations and our legislative

interest within a financial framework

that will make it possible for all in the

profession to join the Institute.

"This, then, is the picture of where we

now find ourselves. As we pause moment-
arly to change horses, we had best con-
sider whether we have the fortitude to

follow the course which lies open before

us. There is the promise of unprecedent-
ed activity in building for years follow-
ing victory. Whether it is healthy and

constructive beyond anything history has

known will depend in the deepest sense on

us.

"We shall have the temptation of doing

just enough work to keep our offices

filled with work. We shall have the

temptation of getting by on what we remem-

ber of our school training instead of

putting in the truly hard hours of learn-

ing how best to use the miracles which

technology is offering us. We shall have

the temptation of forgetting whether the

desires of our clients make economic,

social and aesthetic sense, or merely

offer the opportunity of handsome fees.

We shall have the very great temptation of
devoting ourselves wholly to making money,
after years of starvation fare, instead of
giving time and thought and effort to mak-

ing the profession a more effective in-
munent of public welfare.

"We must dare to face these temptations

and to win out. If we truly believe that

architecture is the mother of the arts and

that our training gives us the right to

lead in the planning and organization of

our physical environment we can do no less.

"We shall have opportunities that no

architect has had before to mould our

coming civilization. Let us seize them

firmly, - and the imperative responsibili-

ties which they impose. For if we lose

them now, chance will never return them a

second time to our grasp."