

JOINT GSH-HGS DINNER MEETING— MARCH 10, 1986

DR. GEORGE S. ANSELL—Biographical Sketch



Dr. George S. Ansell became President of the Colorado School of Mines in 1984. He assumed that position after a 24-year academic career at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in which he rose from Assistant Professor of Metallurgical Engineering to the position of Robert W. Hunt Professor of Metallurgical Engineering (1967-1984), Chairman of the Materials Division (1969-1974), Dean of the School of

Engineering (1974-1984), and Acting Dean of the School of Management (1980-1981). Dr. Ansell, who received Bachelor, Masters and Ph.D. degrees in Metallurgical Engineering, all at Rensselaer, has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards from the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, the American Society for Metals, and the American Society for Engineering Education. He became a Fellow of the American Society for Metals in 1972 and a Fellow of the Metallurgical Society, American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers in 1981. In 1973 he received Rensselaer's Distinguished Faculty Award. An active participant in numerous professional activities, Dr. Ansell has served on many advisory boards, panels, and committees of the National Academy of Science, The National Research Council, The National Science Foundation, The Department of the Air Force, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He is currently President of the Metallurgical Society.

ENERGY AND MINERALS: A TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE

Oil prices are finally taking the long-awaited plunge, with losers spread across the entire U.S. petroleum industry. In the short to mid-term future, we will continue to be faced with low, slow, no, or negative growth in demand for petroleum products.

Present events, including world-wide over-capacity, appear to be part of a genuine structural change that is occurring in the industry rather than a more traditional and better-understood cyclical change. This change portends a more significant role in exploration for small to medium sized independents as the majors become increasingly sophisticated managers of "properties" as opposed to finders and drillers for oil.

Long-term forecasts indicate genuine supply problems starting before the turn of the century. To develop reserves that will meet this demand, the restructured industry will have to rely on a new range of exploration and exploitation technologies, including: remote sensing; artificial intelligence; advanced data management, processing, transmission and interpretation methodologies; three-dimensional modeling; and, as-yet, undeveloped enhanced recovery techniques.

Research to bring these technologies on-line before the end of the century must start now, with commitments from presently hard-pressed oil firms. Innovative approaches to how we organize, finance and perform research are needed so as to bring about a new industry/university/government collaboration.