

WOOD AND FIBER

JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF WOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VOLUME 7

SPRING 1975

NUMBER 1

SOLUTIONS URGENT—A CHALLENGE

The three papers presented at the 1975 Annual Technical Meeting of the Society in Portland are printed in the professional section of this issue to focus attention on them. Eric Anderson arranged the program to assess present status and to recommend future courses of action for three topics: fire, adhesives, and use of wood in building construction. These problem areas are important to the forest products industries, as well as to society in general, and they demand resolution in the next five to ten years; the annual meeting program was intended to stimulate discussion and participation by the audience to bring out different points of view in each subject area.

Publication of the papers and their discussions is offered as a challenge to professional wood technologists, forest products companies and their suppliers, and trade organizations to come to grips with the problems and being moving *now* to reach viable solutions to them within the critical next five to ten years. Wood and its utilization are focal points for a broad spectrum of

disciplines—economic, scientific, and engineering, not to mention many aspects of the social sciences—so the stated challenge to solve these problems involves a great undertaking. A start towards meeting the challenge is being made by collecting the papers and their discussions here.

Moderator of the program was Helmuth Resch. SWST gives Helmuth special thanks for diligently editing the taped discussions following each paper to provide a written record for publication.

The authors have many years' experience in their respective fields. They offer much insight by sharing this experience and by giving their perspectives of the situations in their special fields of endeavor. The arena in which the challenges have been exposed so clearly is a dynamic one. This is fortunate because the challenges are therefore really opportunities for many of us. Solutions are urgently needed—if they do not come to bear, it is mankind in general that will suffer most. The rewards are great. Dare we not accept the challenge?