

[February 14, 1974]

It is with a very special kind of pleasure that I introduce your Gantt Medal awardee here today. When I first knew John T. Connor, I was not yet in my teens. Even then, I had a sincere admiration for him, since he was two years ahead of me in the fairly small parochial school we both attended and, at an early age, that two years seems to make someone incredibly older. We lived in a new subdivision of Syracuse, New York, at the very edge of our parish, and shared the long walk to school, always hoping for a ride, especially during those winter days when cold wind blew across the open lake in Onondaga Park and caught us on our open flank for about a half a mile.

It was not just boyish admiration that saw Jack Connor marked for greatness as the sparks fly upward. He was always number one or two in his class, alternating with a fellow named Bernie Murray who later became a Jesuit priest. He was always first string on all the teams we had in high school, basketball, football, and baseball. Where we didn't have a team, in golf, he was even better, as he proved later in Syracuse University where they did have a team. He also proved something else when, as a Catholic, he was elected President of the senior class in what was then, in the middle thirties, a very Methodist university. He also graduated magna cum laude before reaching higher again, at Harvard Law School where on the opening day of class the freshmen were told to look to the left and right because only one of them would make it to graduation. Of course, Jack made it with distinction, graduating this time into one of the best New

York City law firms that has not been known to select any but the best. He was not with them very long, however, but the sparks were still flying upward, in a beginning of what was to be for him a lifelong concern for public service. I should add that about this time he married, Mary O'Boyle, the sister of his Harvard roommate. She, the young bride, found it curious that her father, a Milwaukee lawyer, was able to be home for dinner every night, whereas her husband, a New York lawyer, not only arrived home late, but brought work home with him. Perhaps I should also add that their three children have all gone to Harvard for law or business which shows that genetics are important, too.

The year was 1942, the war was on, and it soon became apparent that essential to our ultimate victory was the organization of American science which heretofore had depended largely upon European basic research. The most important American scientist in the war effort at this moment was Dr. Vannevar Bush of M.I.T., author of Science, The Endless Frontier, who prevailed upon John Connor to become the General Counsel to the newly-created office of Scientific Research and Development, to bring his legal, organizational, and administrative skills to the new initiatives of the best of burgeoning American science. This brought John Connor into the highly secret center of what was to be the concluding force of World War II, variously called the Manhattan Project, the Nuclear Age, or the Atomic Bomb.

Like so many others of his generation, John Connor also answered the urge for a more personal involvement in the war effort in the field, far from Washington. Naturally, it was the Marines in the Pacific Theater, but you could guess that by the end of the war he was a Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy back in Washington where his special talents had greater range.

Several years passed before I caught up with Jack again. In 1954, I joined the Board of the National Science Foundation, an outgrowth of the work Jack did to organize science with Van Bush during the war. One of my fellow Board members was George Merck who told me that when his firm merged with another, the double group of officers had to decide who would emerge as President -- again, it was John T. Connor by the unanimous vote of all the officers of both companies.

All this and other public service duties kept Jack busy for a decade until he decided to trade personal gain for public service again, at the highest level of government, by becoming Secretary of Commerce in the Johnson Cabinet. His accomplishments in this task were considerable, although his penchant for speaking his mind, especially on moral issues, did not make him unduly popular with his boss when unpopular issues were at stake. They parted amicably, but firmly, again to Jack's credit, with a farewell White House dinner to prove it.

Then it was back to administration in the private sector again at the highest level, as Chief Executive Officer of Allied Chemical.

The company was then in trouble; it is out of the woods today, thanks to John Connor. Meanwhile, he has found time to perform a wide variety of other administrative functions as Trustee of two universities, membership on the Board of Education, fund raising for myriad good causes, like the Metropolitan Opera, and board membership for some of the largest corporations in America, such as Chase Manhattan and General Motors. As a co-member on one of these boards, I can assure you that he is not a pro forma board member. He has the important moral concerns and voices them. He asks the difficult questions when most others do not.

I believe it is this combination of great qualities that have characterized the whole life of John T. Connor that have led you to make your Gantt Medal award to him today. I can only say that I second the motion -- with great pleasure and I am proud to present him here today.



AMERICAN MANAGEMENT Associations, Inc.

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ROBERT G. BUTLER
VICE PRESIDENT
AND CORPORATE SECRETARY

January 28, 1974

The Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.
President
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

Dear Father Hesburgh:

In an earlier letter I promised to contact you when we had refined the plans for the presentation of the Gantt Medal to Mr. John Connor on Thursday, February 14, 1974. The schedule of the day's activities is as follows:

12:00 noon - Reception in Private Dining Room #9 on the Third Floor of the Palmer House. At approximately 12:25 p.m. those to be seated at the head table will assemble and move to the Grand Ballroom.

12:30 p.m. - Luncheon will be served. We would be pleased if you would give the Invocation.

1:15 p.m. - Wade Miller, Vice President, Personnel and Organization, the B. F. Goodrich Co. and Chairman of AMA's Personnel Conference, will introduce those people seated at the head table.

- Harold Smiddy, Chairman of the Gantt Medal Board of Award, will review the Gantt Award Criteria.

- You will introduce Mr. Connor as the recipient of the Gantt Award.

- Harold Smiddy will present Mr. Connor with the Gantt Medal and Citation.



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The Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.
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- Mr. Connor's remarks of acceptance.

- Mr. Miller will close the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

I would suggest that your remarks run between 8 and 10 minutes and that they include some biographical and personal comments about Mr. Connor.

If you have any questions relative to the schedule outlined above, please let me know.

I am looking forward to seeing you on the 14th of February.

Sincerely,


Robert G. Butler

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- GANTT LUNCHEON SCHEDULE -

Thursday, February 14, 1974 - 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Mr. Miller: 12:30

- * Introduces Father Hesburgh who will deliver Invocation.
- Luncheon is served at conclusion of Invocation.
- Luncheon completed at approximately 1:15 p.m.

Mr. Miller: 1:15

- * Introduces people at head table and guests at special tables per list provided.
- * Introduces Mr. Smiddy.

Mr. Smiddy: 1:20

- * Reviews Gantt award criteria and philosophy.
- * Introduces Father Hesburgh.

Father Hesburgh: 1:24

- * Presents brief biography and personal comments about Mr. Connor.
- * Father Hesburgh turns meeting back to Mr. Smiddy.

Mr. Smiddy: 1:32

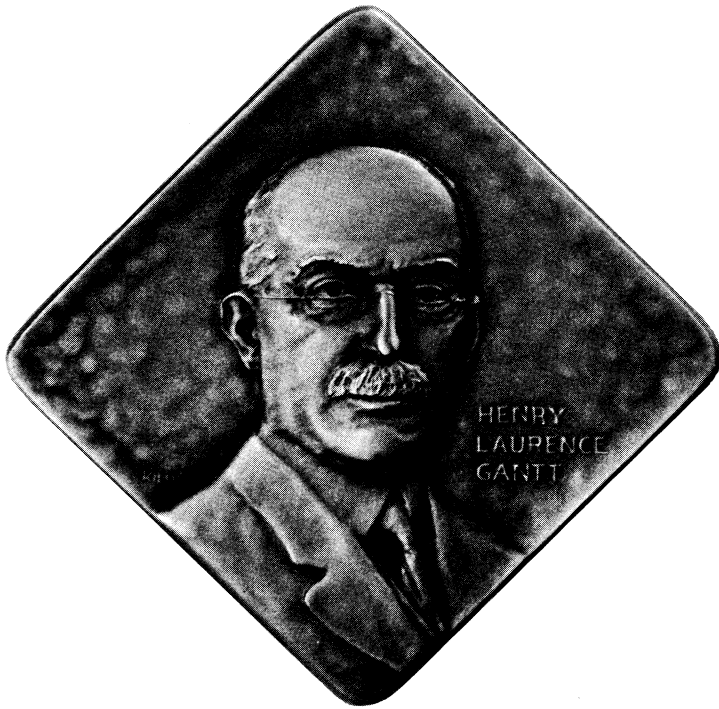
- * Reads citation and presents Mr. Connor with Medal, Citation and book.

Mr. Connor: 1:35

- * Acceptance.

Mr. Miller: 1:55

- * Thanks Mr. Connor for his remarks.
- * Adjourns Meeting.



Presentation of the

**HENRY LAURENCE GANTT
MEDAL**

to

JOHN T. CONNOR

**ANNUAL AWARD OF THE
GANTT MEDAL**

Under the joint auspices of
THE AMERICAN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS

and

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

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President
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana

Presentation of the Medal:

HAROLD F. SMIDDY
Consultant
New York, New York

Acceptance and Address:

JOHN T. CONNOR
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
Allied Chemical Corporation
New York, New York

LUNCHEON

Thursday, February 14, 1974
**AMERICAN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS
PERSONNEL CONFERENCE**
The Palmer House, Chicago, Illinois
