

Rotary's Role

Informed Public Best Shield, Says Lagueux

President of Rotary International, Arthur Lagueux told a joint dinner meeting of the Rotary clubs of Port Arthur and Fort William last night that only by an informed and enlightened public opinion could the problems of the United Nations be solved, and in this respect, Rotary could play a leading part.

Addressing Rotarians, their ladies and special guests at the Prince Arthur hotel, Mr. Lagueux said:

"We need not pass pious resolutions — nor make demands upon our governments — but we can take the lead within our own communities in seeing to it that the public has objective information upon which to base its decisions. We can do this through our schools, through public forums — and best of all, perhaps, through the programs at our weekly meetings.

"We must all get hold of the fact that Rotary is founded primarily to give men an opportunity to form friendships; to develop in the individual the desire to be of service and to provide the way through which service can be accomplished.

"The place to begin is in our own clubs. The time is now."

Service was the primary objective of Rotary, profit merely the by-product.

Vocational Service

"Unless we set our sights for the highest possible goals, we shall fall far short of our objectives," he said.

The International president emphasized the value of vocational service.

"Vocational service is one of the finest things Rotary has to offer a tired world. No club need go far afield to find opportunity for service."

For service opportunities he mentioned the sick, the aged, underprivileged children, blind persons, "bodies that need to be rebuilt."

The speaker then touched on the international scene. The forces of greed and lust for power were still to be reckoned with. The brave new

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world was still to be created. Its creation called for the best of thought, effort and sacrifice.

"To become discouraged," he said, "would be to surrender to the forces of evil."

Rotary was a chain of more than 7,000 clubs with 342,000 members of many races, tongues and religions held together by bonds of fellowship. At the heart of Rotary lay an ideal.

"Rotary is not synthetic," he said. "It is vital. How vital it will live and perform its mission depends on us."

The Rotary program, he said, was service to the community; service to mankind; service wherever it is needed; service that is given freely and ungrudgingly.

Introduced by McCullough

Mr. Lagueux was introduced by Dr. Crawford C. McCullough, a past international president of Rotary who said that Mr. Lagueux was the fourth Canadian to hold the office of international president of Rotary in its almost 40 years of existence. Like many prominent and successful men of today, Mr. Lagueux had been born in a small town. Among many other business associations, President Lagueux was head of the investment corporation of Lagueux and Des Roches, Quebec City.

Among his many other qualifications the honored guest was a sportsman — a squash racquets champion, commodore of the Royal Quebec Yacht club, a devoted family man and supremely devoted to the ideals of Rotary, Dr. McCullough said.

Mr. Lagueux was thanked by Arthur Widnall, Fort William, a past district governor of Rotary who told the meeting that in earlier associations with Mr. Lagueux he had detected in him "the material for a president of Rotary International."

Flowers From Duluth

President Harry Black of the Port Arthur Rotary club presided. The program was in charge of O. F. Young. Norman Wilson of the Port Arthur club welcomed "our other distinguished guests — our wives."

Head table guests introduced by T. W. Thompson included Levi Gleeson, president of Fort William Rotary and Mrs. Gleeson; Dr. and Mrs. C. C. McCullough; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Widnall; Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Young; Mr. and Mrs. Alex Adams. Guests also included heads of the various other service clubs at the lakehead.

President Harry Black pointed out a large and beautiful bouquet of flowers which he said had been sent to the meeting by Duluth Rotary "as a mark of courtesy to our international president."

Preceding Mr. Lagueux's address, a program of entertainment was presented by Vern Simms, pianist and member of the Port Arthur Rotary club. Mrs. J. W. Peacock, soprano and Michael Kuzik, tenor, each sang two numbers to piano accompaniment by Vern Simms. Lon Patterson told two dialect stories.