

News Release

GRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER OF THE SOUTHWEST



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AND ON BROADCASTS OF SAME DATE

DR. LLOYD V. BERKNER WILL LEAVE SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR'S POST AT OWN REQUEST;
WILL REMAIN AS BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIRMAN, CONTINUE RESEARCH AT CENTER

DALLAS --

Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner of the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest has asked to be relieved of his duties as scientific director of the Center. His request has been approved, effective March 1, 1966, it was announced today by Erik Jonsson, chairman of the GRCSW Board of Governors.

Dr. Berkner, internationally-known scientific administrator who headed the Center as its first president and scientific director from 1961 until early this year, said his action was prompted by reasons of health.

He will remain as chairman of the Center's Board of Trustees and maintain his status as a professor at the private, basic research and post-doctoral educational institution.

"In giving up active administrative duties of the Center, I look forward to my continuing association with its wide range of activities as chairman of the Board of Trustees, and to participation in its program as a member of its distinguished faculty," Dr. Berkner said.

As chairman, Dr. Berkner will guide the Board of Trustees in evaluating the Center's programs in fundamental research, post-doctoral education, and co-operative graduate programs with the educational institutions of the region.

In his academic role, Dr. Berkner will continue his research on history of the Earth's atmosphere, in collaboration with Prof. Lauriston C. Marshall. Research conclusions of this study indicate that the vital oxygen of the atmosphere has been present only in

Chairman Erik Jonsson, a principal founder of the Center, enlisted Dr. Berkner's services to organize the GRCSW. Dr. Berkner began his work in Dallas in late 1960, after 10 years as president of Associated Universities, Inc., the operating group of Brookhaven National Laboratory at Upton, L. I., New York.

Dr. Berkner has often been referred to as "father of the International Geophysical Year," the 18-month program (1957-58) in which scientists from 67 nations pooled resources and techniques to learn more about the Earth, atmosphere, and space.

Dr. Berkner is currently the treasurer of the National Academy of Sciences.

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President Gifford Johnson pointed out that in the last three and one-half years the Center has built up a distinguished faculty and academic body of 75 in the natural sciences, one of the largest in the area. This faculty, backed by a technical and professional supporting staff of another 125, is now carrying on fundamental research at a rate of \$3.2 million per year, he said. "This faculty represents the most significant new teaching resource in the southwest for launching, expanding, or improving graduate education."

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Dr. Berkner came to Dallas in 1961 to organize the Graduate Research Center, after 10 years as president of Associated Universities, Inc., the operating group of Brookhaven National Laboratory at Upton, L. I., New York.

After a year of planning, organization of the Center's faculty began in April, 1962. In the ensuing three years, the Center has established many educational and research activities to stimulate graduate education in the southwest. Center programs at present involve more than 300 faculty and staff, with operations at a level of \$3.2 million annually. Operations have grown from \$717,000, recorded in the first full year of the Center's life, 1962-63.

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DR. LLOYD V. BERKNER LEAVES DIRECTOR'S POST -3-

President Gifford Johnson expressed his pleasure that the Center will continue to benefit from Dr. Berkner's broad experience and competence, and from his availability for advice and counsel on the Center's total educational and research programs. He will also provide some vital liaison with Federal scientific agencies, Mr. Johnson said.

"It takes men of vision, of conviction and purpose, and of complete dedication to pioneer into new and innovative opportunities," Mr. Johnson said. "As the Center's first president, Lloyd Berkner was all that, and did what many said could not be done, by establishing the Center and bringing to its faculty eminent scientists from around the world."

Mr. Johnson said that an announcement regarding Dr. Berkner's successor as scientific director of the Center would be made in the near future.

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