

One doesn't talk about Earth Science without mentioning *the* people as well as the rocks and seas. Earth Science is knowledge that has to be conveyed to younger minds not as a tradition but rather as new knowledge that is a guide and foundation for a place in society.

Realizing this in the early 1950's Mrs. Grace Truman^o, Dr. Marvin, president of George Washington University and the Rev. J. Hunter Guthrie, S.J. president of Georgetown University proposed to the Washington Academy of Sciences the organization of a Junior Academy of Sciences for the teenagers in the high schools of the District of Columbia and the several adjacent counties of the states Maryland and Virginia. A constitution was written which prescribed the aims and qualifications of the members. These were rather strict and while the Academy had its own officials it was under the supervision of a Committee for the Encouragement of Science Talent in the Senior Academy of the Washington group.

At one of the early meetings of this Junior Academy Board in the late 1950's the Senior Member cancelled the annual convention because the Juniors admitted that they had not yet started adequate preparations. As a member of that Senior Committee at the time, I felt that maybe we had underestimated the efficiency of the teenage organizer. Shortly thereafter the chairmanship was given to me, and at the first meeting with the officers of the Junior academy I announced that I would not dominate their decisions but would only monitor them as I was supposed to do in the constitution. They would have the complete say over membership and activities.