PREFACE

In recent years, there has been a noticeable intensification in sulfur research. Current efforts cover a wide area of research, ranging from theoretical calculations on bonding and structure of sulfur and its compounds to studies on applied sulfur chemistry frequently oriented toward the development of new uses for this element.

The Third Annual Mardi Gras Symposium, organized by the Louisiana Section of the American Chemical Society, provided an opportunity to review the current trends in sulfur research. The previous two Mardi Gras Symposia were devoted entirely to theoretical chemistry. Sulfur chemistry became the major theme of this annual Symposium series for the first time this year since we felt that a need existed for a forum where sulfur researchers could report their latest findings and where they could informally exchange their knowledge concerning the various facets of sulfur chemistry—ranging from theoretical to the practical and applied aspects of the subject.

The Louisiana Section gratefully acknowledges the financial contributions made to the Symposium by Loyola University, Louisiana State University—New Orleans, Tulane University, and The Sulphur Institute.

The success of the Symposium must be largely attributed to R. L. Flurry, L. P. Gary, Jr., and O. E. Weigang, Jr., who served on the Program Committee and to S. P. McGlynn, B. Meyer, G. Griffin, and H. L. Fike who assumed the roles of discussion leaders during the Symposium.

A two-day Symposium certainly cannot give a full account of the status of sulfur chemistry. Yet, we believe that the papers presented in this volume are indicative of the current trends and of the progress being made in this field. Finally, we are convinced that the spirit of the Mardi Gras Season provided a stimulating background for this Symposium and an atmosphere which proved conducive to lively, informal, and effective exchange of thought.

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