This proves how we realize nationwide the serious effects on our life and our economy caused by earthquakes in the past, and have great concern for the future advancement of this field of science.

Ladies and gentlemen, though we are trying utmost to make your stay comfortable and convenient, we request all the participants to collaborate with us to make our conference run as smoothly as possible and to make our friendly tie stronger, and to make your stay as pleasant as possible.

ADDRESS BY:

Mr. John E. Rinne, Representing participants from abroad (U.S.A.)

It has been a short four years since the World Conference on Earthquake Engineering was held in Berkeley, California. In that time the earth has continued to show its restlessness. Most recently, the world has witnessed and shared the grief of the Chilean Earthquakes. Earlier this year it was Morocco. There has been a continuing series of major shocks:

Afghanistan, Greece, and India in 1956

Iran, Mexico, Turkey, and Mongolia in 1957

Montana and Formosa in 1959

Morocco and Chile in 1960 so far.

These and lesser temblors daily are a constant reminder to alert us to our common problem.

Earthquakes are with us as one of the major adversities of nature. To some they are fearsome. Others may accept them stoically for what they are and for what they do. But to the engineers of the world they present a challenge. That challenge is to so build our structures that they are capable of withstanding the movement of the earth's crust and to avoid the needless loss of life, the injuries, and the property damage.

The record to date has not been satisfactory; there has been too much construction of types and quality that invite earthquake damage. Custom and public apathy have contributed to this situation. Engineered design and construction can provide reasonably earthquake-resistant structures with most of the construction materials used or available throughout the world.

Our problem, basically, is to disseminate our engineering knowledge and to encourage good practices in construction. As in other

fields of scientific and engineering development, rapid strides have been made in recent years to understand the earthquake phenomenon better. Progress has been world-wide and the communication of ideas between people of all lands has improved greatly. We can conquer our mutual problem if we will.

The interchange of ideas is a fundamental service performed by the Conference on which we now embark. All of us look forward with keen anticipation to the papers of this week-long conference. We are especially indebted to our very hospitable hosts and for efforts of the Organizing Committee under the chairmanship of Professor Muto for making the Conference a reality. Those of us who have planned such occasions know what a prodigious task it is. The reward is in the real and lasting good that can be accomplished.

From those of us who will partake of the fruits of your labors may I say, and say sincerely, we thank you very much. We look forward to our stay in your gracious, hospitable land.