

Dedication of the Science Education Center
Welcoming Remarks
John Peoples

I am happy to welcome you to Fermilab on behalf of the Department of Energy and University Research Association. Today we will dedicate our Science Education Center. I am delighted that Secretary of Energy, Admiral James K. Watkins, is here today to help dedicate the Center. Almost three years ago, October 7, 1989, to be exact, we gathered in a tent on this site to break ground for the Science Education Center and Admiral Watkins was here to put his shovel in the ground. In fact, Admiral Watkins strongly encouraged us to move ahead with the Education Center. The Education Center is the focus of our education programs for kindergarten through 12th grade students and their teachers. Many of these programs were started about ten years ago, during Leon Lederman's tenure as Director of Fermilab. These programs fit the mold of what Admiral Watkins wanted his National Laboratories to do. He wanted the scientists and engineers to

make a contribution to the education of our young people, because he believed that the human resources of the National Laboratories were untapped. He believed that with a little encouragement and a little push, the scientists and engineers in the National Laboratories could make a difference and that it would not require big expensive programs to get this underway. Of course, these scientists and engineers couldn't solve all of the problems of education, but they could do their bit. The Admiral's encouragement and direction has helped our programs flourish. They have enriched the learning experience of many K through 12 students in the Fox Valley and the Chicago area. We have been able to reach out to the teachers and students in the Chicago Public Schools and we have in the summers gone beyond the boundaries of Illinois.

Three years ago when the Admiral came to break ground for the Science Education Center it was a stop on his way to lead a workshop on Math and Science Education that was held at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in California. This was a major workshop that attracted all of the movers and shakers in DOE, their national laboratories, and the

OMB and many key people in academia and industry. The Admiral did this because he was concerned that the state of Math and Science education in the United States was deplorable. The Berkeley Math and Science Education workshop created a blueprint for the Department of Energy that is in use today. Fermilab's education programs fit that blueprint and the Department of Energy has given the funds to make our programs flourish. Those programs were very effective three years ago, today they are more effective and they reach more people. We thank Admiral Watkins for that.

Three years ago, Congressman Dennis Hastert, who represents the 14th District of Illinois, was here to help us break ground. Although he had planned to be here, he is unable to do so today, but I will read a letter that he sent me this morning. **(The attached letter was read in its entirety.)**

One of the other people who helped us break ground and is here today is Bob Wilson, Fermilab's first Director. Bob Wilson had the vision for the building. He had already begun work on the design

when we broke ground. The design was difficult because Fermilab had to stay within the tight constraints of the Fermilab budget and the Department of Energy's procedure. In fact, at one point, we had to go back to the drawing boards and scale back the design. Bob Wilson and Ed Crumpley accepted this and did it with vigor. They kept the costs within the budget. I want you to know that this wasn't a Congressional add-on which some people call pork. We, and by we I mean Fermilab and the Department of Energy, did this within the framework of our normal budget. I am proud of this. I am sure that you will be pleased with the appearance of the Center. We are delighted that our first Director has continued to make Fermilab a beautiful place.

Another group that I want to tell you about is Friends of Fermilab. Friends of Fermilab helped get the Fermilab education program get started more than a decade ago. This was a time when the Department of Energy was not encouraging us to have such programs, certainly they did not encourage us to spend government funds on such activities. So Leon Lederman called his friends together and Friends of Fermilab organization was formed to create and then manage our

education programs. Today they are still important to our education programs. They are able to help in those places where it is very difficult for the Department of Energy. More important, they provide ideas and enthusiasm that become part of our programs. We are delighted that Friends of Fermilab continues to be active and that their officers are here today.

Let me now ask Marjorie Bardeen to tell you some more about the Science Education Center. Marjorie is the Fermilab Education Program Manager. She and Stanka Jovanovic have been providing the vision, the direction, and the effort to make our programs go. **(Marge Bardeen's remarks followed.)**

I have already said that Admiral Watkins put his shovel into the earth to start the ground-breaking of the Science Education Center. It would be fair to say that he was the leader of the ground-breaking. Secretary Watkins has brought two very important cultural changes to the Department of Energy. I have said a little about his changing of the Department of Energy from an agency that hid behind secrecy to one

that reaches out through education. He has also made an immense commitment to changing the Department from a major polluter of the environment to a model of how a government agency should treat the environment. Neither of these jobs are done but I can report that the direction has changed. I am delighted that his schedule was able to accommodate our ceremony. I can assure you that he had a very busy three days in Chicago. I would now like to invite Admiral Watkins to make his remarks. **(Admiral Watkins made his remarks. I then invited Leon to make some remarks and we then proceeded to the ribbon cutting ceremony.)**