

See also David Tent's
box of manuscript
material

1981-82

INTERVIEWS

Various members of the Div Physics and the Herzberg Inst of Astrophysics interviewed for a history of the period 1953 until the early 1970s

Note/ Sound quality on some of these cassettes is of varied quality. In all cases a fairly full transcript can be found in the various "Transcripts" note books kept by F.D.Peat

Tape P7/a (Begins at the end of Bunker Interview)

His early work on the Lamb shift. Final published value probably has a larger error than he first estimated.

Problems of measuring the alpha-Lyman line.

The reactions of Pauli to Herzberg's result.

Lamb shift on Hydrogen-like ions. One day hopes to do He⁺

Lamb shift on ground state of H.

TAPE 8/a

Finds errors in the Hylleras calculations of ground state. He repeats the calculation. - Other errors in Hylleras's later calcs.

Speculations on deviations from QED.

The books he wrote.

Other aspects of his research. Free radical work, spectra of comets.

Development of flash photolysis--Nobel Prize for Norrish and Porter

Discussion of certain radicals.

Continued on Tape 9/a

His work on the vibrational spectrum of hydrogen molecule.

Problems with breakdown of Born-Oppenheimer approx. Nobel Prize.

How to foster good research. What to do with dead wood.

His own feelings about being a director.

Formation of the H.I.A.

His reactions to Douglas as director. His feelings about Drury

Herzberg's shock when a new physics block built at NRC.

Felt Howlette had gone to Steacie behind his back. Half on applied

When the applied group moved out, loss cooperation. He felt a

sense of failure.

Short period after Howlette retired and Douglas took over.

Little external pressures on Herzberg's group. The force

force of personality of Steacie.

Comparison of various presidents. Feels that even today Steacie

could have done a lot for NRC.

SECOND Herzberg Interview

Tape p 10/a

Mentions a lecture series he gave in England.

His books.

His views on the importance of basic research at NRC. How to direct.

Problems of budget freeze and cuts.

Hiring the best men. How they searched for a head of solid state physics. In retrospect not sure if he would again have appointed MacDonald. Difficulties of scientists living together in the lab. Difficulties Herzberg had as an administrator when dealing with Macdonald.

Why Hz chose to become director.

The increasing problems between Hz and Howlett. Research suffers, frustrations.

Formation of a theory group, Wu not of the calibre of MacDonald.

The theory group did not work well.

Talk about forming a Mathematics Division.

TAPE p 10/b

Idea of an Institute of Advanced Studies, search for private money.

Why the theory group disbanded.

Impact of theory on solid state and spectroscopy at NRC.

Herzberg's shock when a new physics block built at NRC-Montreal Rd.

Felt Howlett had gone to Steacie behind Hz back. Head on arguments.

When the applied group moved out, less cooperation. Hz feels a sense of failure.

Short period after Howlett retired and before Douglas takes over.

Little external pressures on Herzberg's directorship. Due to the force of personality of Steacie

Comparison of various presidents. Feels that even today Steacie could have done a lot for NRC.

Story of enquiry into NRC and Steacie's reaction

CONTINUED ON TAPE P 36/a

His opinions on Steacie continued.