AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS

the
Karl Taylor Compton Gold Medal
for distinguished statesmanship in science
is awarded to

RALPH ALANSON SAWYER

in recognition of

his outstanding service to the scientific community and to the Nation. His early contributions to the development of spectroscopy and its applications established him as a leader in that field. His teaching has inspired students, and his talents as an administrator have contributed strongly to the advance of science. In his University, he has distinguished himself as Dean of the Graduate School, Chairman of the Michigan Memorial Phoenix Project and Vice President for Research. During World War II, as an officer in the U. S. Navy, he directed the Armor and Projectile Laboratory at Dahlgren, Virginia. After the War, as a civilian, he served as Scientific Director of the hydrogen bomb tests at Bikini Atoll with more than 500 scientists under his charge. His services to the Nation were recognized by the Navy in bestowing upon him its Commendation Ribbon and in appointing him Captain in the reserves. In his long career he has earned other honors too numerous to list. Of especial interest on the occasion of the presentation of this gold medal is his distinguished leadership in scientific societies over a long period. He was President of the Optical Society of America from 1955 to 1957 and was Chairman of the Governing Board of the American Institute of Physics from 1959 until 1971.

For his many accomplishments, his keen perception, strong leadership, and devotion to the cause of science and society as a whole he has, indeed, earned distinction as a statesman of science.

Given at New York this 23rd day of September 1971 by order of the Governing Board.

Chairman

Director

(Seal) Secretary