

# Atmosphere Study Institute Urged

## UA, 11 Other Schools Seek National Center

By JOHN RIDDICK

The University of Arizona is participating in a campaign for a \$50 million scientific attack on the mysteries of the atmosphere.

Organization of a national University Committee for Atmospheric Research, Inc., was announced last night in New York City. The University of Arizona is one of 12 schools represented.

The committee will try to persuade Congress to give \$50 million to build a "National Institute of Atmospheric Research" at some site yet to be selected.

Dr. A. Richard Kassander, director of the UA's Institute of Atmospheric Physics, is a member of the board of directors of the new corporation. He has attended five planning committee meetings this year.

"We have stated our purpose to mount an attack commensurate with the scale of the global problems of the atmosphere," Kassander said, adding that:

**"THERE ARE LIMITS** to what one man can learn about the atmosphere by standing out in a field with a thermometer."

The committee expects to ask Congress in January for \$1 million to form a fulltime staff. It is expected that this staff will select the site which, along with operating funds for the first few years, is expected to cost roughly \$50 million.

"The National Institute should be a well-equipped place in a pleasant climate where we can suggest our colleagues in other fields might like to work during leave or summer time," Kassander said.

The climate question points to one of the main purposes of the Institute.

"Meteorology is a very young science," Kassander said. "We have not yet been able to attract enough outside people like mathematicians and physicists into the field. And probably the number one function of the institute will be to get us this kind of competence."

Kassander anticipated that the institute eventually may have 300 fulltime employees, including 100 research scientists.

The second biggest problem of the institute will be in taking on large-scale experiments that are too big for the schools.

"The whole boiling, chaotic atmosphere is a big test tube," Kassander said. His own institute is studying clouds over the Catalina Mountains, for example, but it is another matter to tackle huge weather fronts that may cover several states.

**THE INSTITUTE** will be conscious of the possibilities of weather control—including military attack and defense as well as rain making.

It will also be interested in such possibilities as putting a satellite into space to check on the radiation pouring in on the atmosphere, he said.

Dr. David L. Patrick, UA vice president, is on the board of directors of UCAR along with Kassander, Dr. Louis Balten, Institute associate director, and Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist, attended meetings of the planning committee.

Other institutions participating are Johns Hopkins University, the University of Wisconsin, University of Chicago, New York University, University of Michigan, Texas A&M, University of California at Los Angeles, Pennsylvania State College, Cornell University, St. Louis University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



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