



Bulletin

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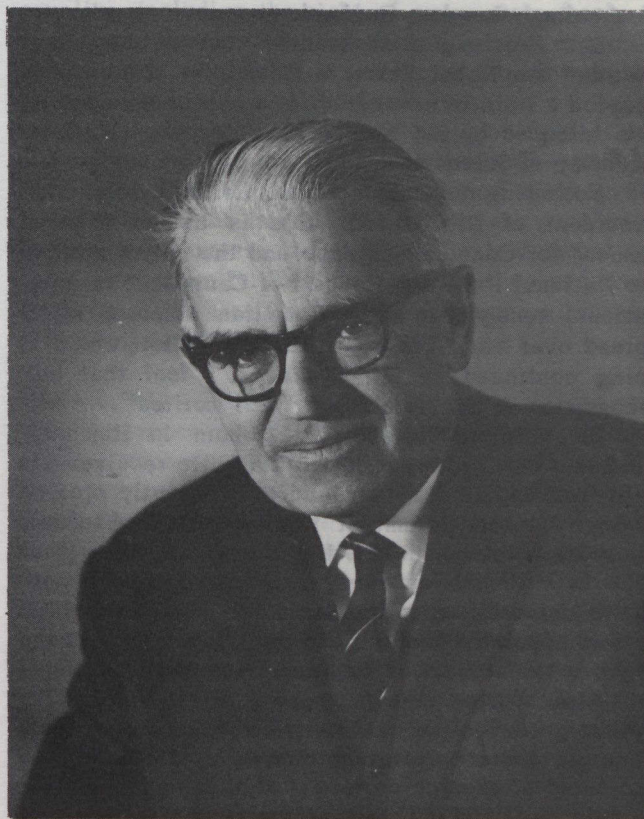
November 24, 1971

NOBEL PRIZE FOR CANADIAN SCIENTIST

November 2 was a proud day for Canada. On that day the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences in Stockholm announced that Dr. Gerhard Herzberg of the National Research Council of Canada had been awarded the 1971 Nobel Prize for Chemistry – so becoming Canada's first Nobel Prize winner in the natural sciences.

The Nobel Prize was awarded to Dr. Herzberg for his contributions to the knowledge of electronic structure and geometry of molecules, particularly free radicals (molecular fragments in chemical reactions, which help to produce smog).

In making the announcement, the Swedish Royal Academy said that Dr. Herzberg's ideas and discoveries had stimulated the whole modern development of chemistry from chemical kinetics to cosmochemistry. More specifically, his successes in identifying some simple organic chemical radicals, such as methyl, by their spectrographic emission characteristics subsequently allowed astronomers to



Dr. Gerhard Herzberg

identify many of these chemicals in interstellar space.

The Academy said that "under Dr. Herzberg's dynamic leadership his laboratory (at the National Research Council of Canada in Ottawa) had attained a unique position as the foremost centre for molecular spectroscopy in the world. His investigations provide extremely precise information on molecular energies, rotations, vibrations and electronic structures which, in turn, yield data on molecular geometries, that is the distance between the atoms in a molecule. From

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