

possessing pertinent technical experience and authority to shut down operations;

- blow-out preventers installed at the sea floor, with special protection to preclude damage from ice keels;
- cemented steel casing installed sequentially at frequent intervals to protect the drill holes;
- the most sophisticated and reliable monitoring devices to measure presence of hydrocarbons in geological formations and to predict subsurface pressures;
- ice-tracking systems to monitor the movement of ice floes large enough to interrupt drilling procedures;
- ice-breaker boats to divert smaller ice floes from contacting the drilling vessels; and
- a quick-disconnect system for the anchors to facilitate prompt and safe abandonment of a drilling location to avoid large ice floes.

In addition, Dome Petroleum will carry liability insurance of \$50 million

for the drilling program as evidence of financial responsibility under the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act. This liability will extend to U.S. property and citizens in Alaska.

The Canadian Government will stand ready in the unlikely event of an oil spill to assist Inuit communities and individuals in recovering resultant damages.

While the greatest efforts will be made to avoid an oil spill, special clean-up measures have also been prepared and the best technology in oil-spill countermeasures will be required of Dome.

A Government back-up contingency plan will be established in which resources can be brought to bear from the Ministry of Transport, the Departments of the Environment, National Defence and Northern Affairs and the government of the Northwest Territories.

A further joint contingency plan for the Beaufort Sea is being negotiated with the United States.

West Germany on April 23, to receive the Arthur Weber Prize for 1976. This is the first time since its inception in 1959 that this prize, which includes a cash award of 10,000 D.M., has been given to a scientist outside the German-speaking countries of Europe and it marks a decision on the part of the directors of the Arthur Weber Foundation to make it an international award.

Dr. Rona was chosen as the first winner of the international award because of his work on the heart. In 1958, while employed by Ayerst Laboratories in Montreal, he studied a synthetic compound known as isoproterenol, which is similar to, but much stronger than natural substances known as catecholamines. Catecholamines are hormones produced by the body which act as important regulators of the myocardium (heart muscle) and vascular system. Dr. Rona discovered that isoproterenol produced myocardial infarct (heart attack) in animals. This finding was irreconcilable with medical knowledge of the time since isoproterenol did not cause occlusion of the coronary arteries and it was thought impossible to produce myocardial lesions without cutting off the blood supply to the myocardium. In fact, Dr. Rona explains, the drug produces an exaggerated stimulation that results in an inadequate supply of oxygen and energy to the heart. This lack cannot be compensated for and eventually the myocardium dies.

#### Basis for international research

Dr. Rona's initial discovery and subsequent work have formed the basis for research being carried on throughout the world. Many of his more recent studies have been carried out in collaboration with two colleagues, Dr. I Huttner of McGill University and Dr. M. Boutet now at Laval University in Quebec City.

Through Dr. Rona's work an experimental model has been produced whereby myocardial infarct can be induced in animals without surgery. This allows for the study of the types of mechanism and interaction that can lead to massive myocardial lesions and it facilitates the development and testing of compounds to counteract this effect. This may have great significance in the prevention of heart disease in human beings.

#### Anti-union trend

The February issue of *The Labour Gazette* reports that a majority of Canadians - 67 per cent - believe there are "too many troublemakers and agitators among union leaders" according to a recent survey by the Canadian Institute of Public Opinion.

It's interesting to note that among those in union households, 60 per cent felt this way, compared with 71 per cent among those with non-union ties.

Only 50 per cent of all respondents expressed this view in a survey made in 1966, up from 41 per cent just over two decades ago.

A question on responsibility for the recent postal strike supports this apparent anti-union trend: 24 per cent of respondents blamed the Government, while 66 per cent felt the union was responsible.

Another survey by the Canadian Institute of Public Opinion found that 34 per cent of Canadians believe union power is on the decline while 31 per cent think unions will grow stronger.

The views of those living in labour-union households were found to be similar to the national outlook.

Eight years ago, 53 per cent predicted growing union power against 19 per cent who foresaw a decline.

#### Pathologist wins international prize for heart research

Dr. George Rona, a pathology professor at McGill University and pathologist at the Lakeshore General Hospital, Montreal, was in Bad Naunheim,



Dr. George Rona

Ralph Emery