

existing departments of State, for its chief concern would be with the future rather than with the issues of the day and hour. Then, perhaps, it will be possible to frame in advance a national policy in which due regard is paid to such far-reaching problems as new sources of energy, such fundamental questions as to whether our coal supplies are to be used merely for power or as raw material for manufactured products, whether our forests — long-dated investments at the best — will be utilised for the purposes for which they were planted or devoted to alternative uses already looming in sight. Had there been in existence thirty years ago such organised legislation as I have suggested the world might well have been saved from at least some of the devastation created by unemployment; we would at least have been spared the humiliation of seeing the policy of international sanctions put into effect without sufficient preparation in

advance of the moment of emergency. These are but examples; yet they are sufficient to show that all public departments — trade, education, health and defence included — would benefit in the end if trained intellects were entrusted in this way with the hazardous role of the prophet.

These are large issues and I must remember that I am speaking not on a political platform but to graduates of a Scottish University. If the larger problems to which I have referred must, for the time being, lie beyond the range of your effective help — our Ministry of Knowledge is still a dream — there remains much in which you can play a part, if only on a modest scale and within a shorter radius.

— (*From a speech delivered by Sir James Irvine at the Graduation Ceremony held at St. Andrews, June 1936.*)

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

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### INTERNATIONAL RUBBER CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

The ninth International Rubber Conference (Rubbercon '87) organized by the Plastics and Rubber Institute will be held at Harrogate, UK from 1–5 June 1987, concurrently with International Rubber Exhibition (Rubberex '87). Both the Conference and the Exhibition will open on June 1st at Harrogate.

Rubbercon programme comprising of around 100 lecture papers will run in two concurrent streams, plus 30 poster papers. Speakers from more than 20 countries representing five continents are expected to participate. Some of the important speakers are: Dr S. Nair of the Malaysian Rubber Research and Development Board on natural rubber; Prof. H. Schnecko of SP Reifenwerke GMBH, FRG—Mate-

rial and production evaluation; Dr S. L. Aggrawal of the General Tyre Corporation, USA—Polymers molecular and vulcanization structures; and Prof. J. P. Kennedy, University of Akron, USA—Polymers.

The subjects for other sessions will include: Reinforcement polymer blends and thermoplastic elastomers, interrelated manufacturing systems, AMT and quality assurance, machinery processing, rubber chemical and specialised properties for products.

For further particulars please contact: Martin Shuttleworth, Plastics and Rubber Institute, 11 Hobart Place, London SW1 OHL and Gordon Morey, Emap Maclaren Exhibitions Ltd., 79–81 High Street, Croydon CR9 3SS, UK.