

LEGUEUX PRAISES U. S. CHARACTER

ROTARY CHIEF CITES IT AS CHIEF REASON FOR AMERICA'S LEADERSHIP

The position of world leadership now occupied by the United States is the result of "character, not power," Savannah Rotarians were told today by Arthur Legueux, president of Rotary International.

Mr. Legueux, of Quebec City, Canada, said America leads the Western world for more reasons than its military power, industrial potential and wealth.

"Important as these are," he said, "important even as the atomic bombs are, I doubt that this explains the leadership of the United States. No, the reason is in character, not power.

"The United States leads because her people are trusted. The Philippines were promised freedom, and on the due date of the contract, the people there were freed.

"Do you think the Asian peoples have a shorter memory than others? Do you think the Chinese don't know the score, don't remember their treatment over many decades from the Americans and from others?

"The United States is in a position of leadership on account of its record. Maybe that explains, too, its wealth and power. But the record of characterfulness is what counts. . ."

As to the position of Rotary in molding this important "character," Mr. Legueux said, "the strength of Rotary is in its recognition of the fact that the idealistic way is essentially practical."

Business, he said "can be competitive without being mean. Men can seek money payment for work done without being sordid. Ambition can be exercised without its being turned into vainglory."

Rotarians need "a clear view of what we do," he continued. "We recognize the call and importance of business, because in our very association we organize ourselves by business and professional affiliation."

"But," he added, "we carry on and move forward, not to see what we can get from one another, but to see what we can do for one another."

Rotary, Mr. Legueux said, "is a big, important, influential organization—and it is so because of the sum total of the accomplishments of its individual members. This is no time to brag; nevertheless, Ro-

tary does not seek to hide its light under a bushel. It believes in its program—it calls upon individual Rotarians ever to be alert to see that its idealistic program receives attention in a realistic world. . ."

The organization's role in world affairs was outlined by the international president as follows:

"As I think through on world situations, it seems to me that Rotary has a contribution to make which is beyond that of the United Nations, but only as a complement thereto.

"Power, wealth, diplomacy are not tools for Rotary's use. Rotary's tools are far simpler, but none the less important. Rotary's tools are in every man's hands. They require no immense organization; no great sums for underwriting. What are they? Friendship and service. Only these."

Presiding at the weekly luncheon-meeting of the Savannah club, at which Mr. Legueux spoke, was J. Phil Schenck, president. Hue Thomas and Joseph Mendel were in charge of the program. The meeting was held in the main ballroom of the Hotel De Soto.

The international president was introduced by Reginald Maxwell of Augusta, governor of District 241 of Rotary which includes the local club. Porter Carswell, a past district governor, was praised by Mr. Legueux as a "good will ambassador of Georgia."

A quartet accompanied by Dwight Bruce sang a number of songs.

A new member introduced was Walter Blun, a former member of the club, and Mrs. Blun.

George Hill was given a cigarette lighter, marking his leaving the club to go on active duty with the navy.

A large number of guests, including representatives of many Rotary clubs all over Georgia and from many other states, were present at the meeting.