

September 1953

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT CONGRESS

The National Student Congress gained national attention once again. President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent greetings to the Student Congress convening at the National Tournament in Denver. Four members of Student Congress were featured on a CBS television network program, Youth Takes a Stand. An annual trophy for cumulative achievement in Congress was established and won by Wooster High School in Ohio.

1953

DRAMATIC INTERP RETURNS

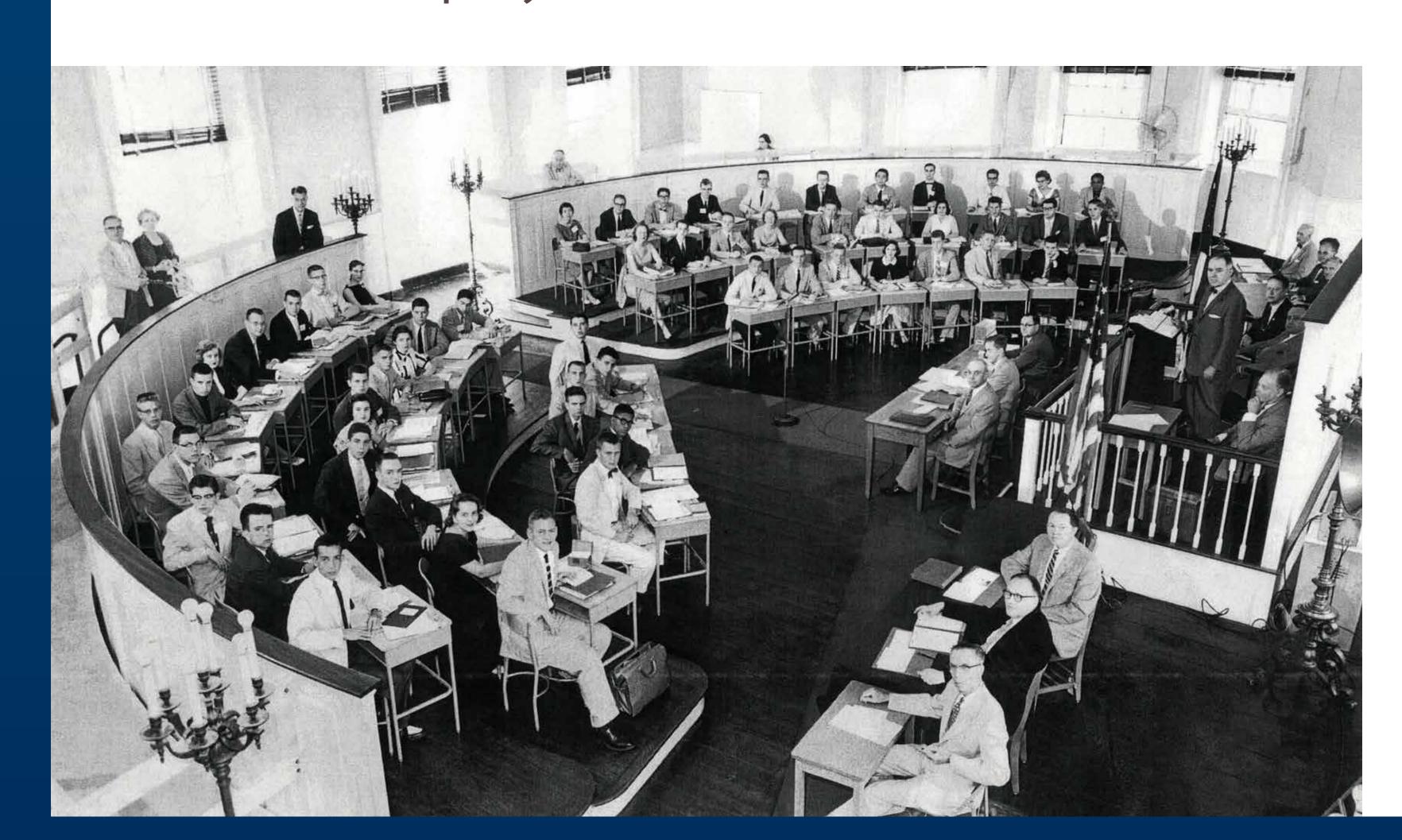
After a three-year hiatus, Dramatic Interpretation was restored as an event at the National Tournament.

1956-1961

MILESTONE GROWTH

After three decades of challenging growth, the organization hit a historic milestone! The 100,000th individual membership was recorded in December, 1956.

To serve a growing membership, affiliate status was created for schools awaiting charter openings. District entries were based on chapter size, with a 1,000-chapter cap. Diamond keys and Leading Chapter Awards were limited to one per 1,000 members, and a double ruby pin was introduced for student and coach recognition. In 1960, the charter fee was set at \$10 per year.



High school debaters and Bruno E. Jacob, 1957

Bruno E. Jacob awards trophy,

1963-1964

TOURNAMENT UPDATES

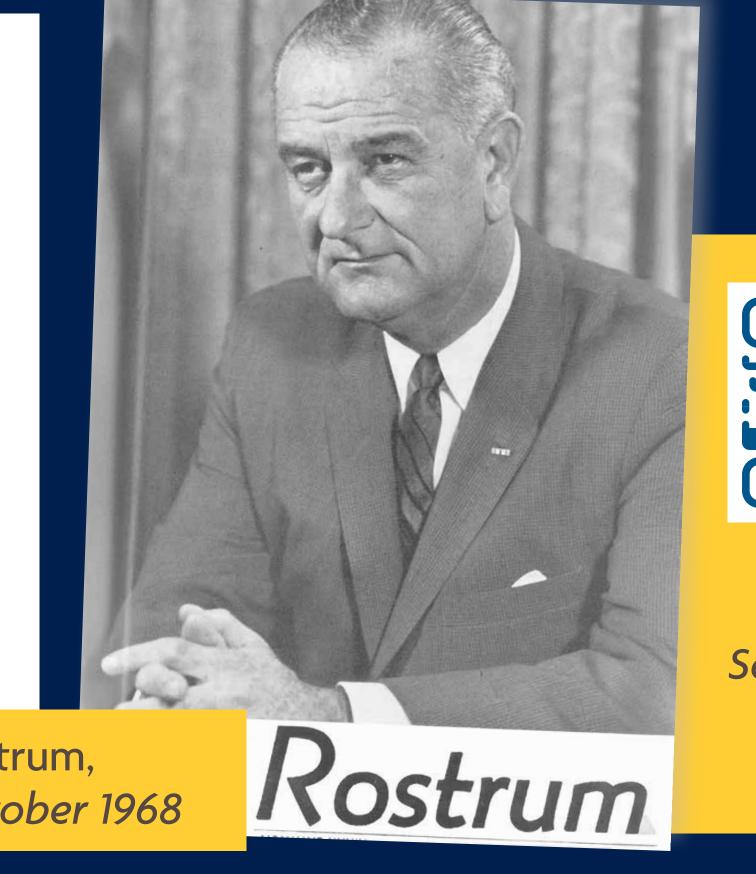
The NFL announced changes to events at the National Tournament. Impromptu, a challenging event where the performance is not planned or rehearsed, replaced Poetry at the National Tournament as a consolation event. Members from Hawaii competed in the National Tournament for the first time.

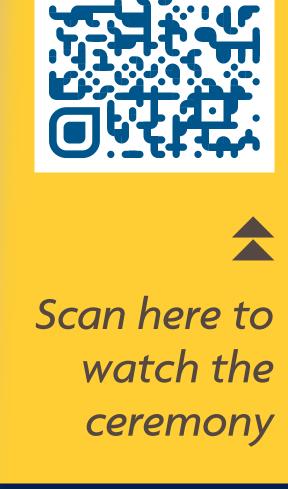
To keep up with growing numbers, the charter limit was raised to 1,200.

1964

NFL TRIBUTE

Bruno E. Jacob and Karl E. Mundt visited the Rose Garden at the White House to award President Lyndon B. Johnson Honorary Membership in the NFL.





NATIONAL SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1966-1967

ADAPTING TO GROWTH

More changes were made to continue serving a growing number of coach and student members. The NFL established a new schedule of points for contests. Rules for entry in the National Tournament were revised in order to maintain its size. The student membership fee was raised to \$3.

Now with 1,100 chapters and over 900 affiliates, the League faced the challenge of growth—serving the larger number of schools and still retaining the features which made it grow. I could look back on 42 years of service to 260,000 young Americans and forward to continuing opportunities for developing articulate young leaders for the American way of life."

— Bruno E. Jacob, 1967

FIRST SPONSOR

1968

The NFL gained its first official sponsor for the National Tournament. Reader's Digest, known at the time for its historical and educational content, donated \$10,000 toward the cost of the National Tournament.



After more than 40 years of dedication to the National Forensic League, Founder Bruno. E. Jacob retired and was appointed as Executive Director Emeritus. Lester M. Tucker was later appointed Executive Director.

Article on Jacob's

retirement, Ripon

November 20, 1975

Commonwealth-Press,

To recognize all of his accomplishments, Senator Karl Mundt presented a Salute to Bruno Jacob to the U.S. Senate.

Bruno E. Jacob was also presented with a generous retirement gift of a new automobile and funds for world travel.

At the time of Bruno's retirement, the National Forensic League reached 300,000 members in 44 districts across the country.

Chapter dues increased to \$25 in 1970.

1971

al forensic League since its inception in 1925 is both a challenge and an oppor-

a common interest which he and I shared and had nutured through correspondence in our desire to create some type of honorary society to stimulate and reward effective public speaking in the highschools of America brought us togeth-

er. As a young high school speech teacher, I was driving East by car to pursue my advanced degree at Columbia University and I stopped at Bruno's home for a visit. That contact has grown and matured into a lasting friendship and out of it came the steadily evolving plans to form the National Forensic League of which

I am proud to be the first member and of which Bruno has been the Executive Secretary from now until then. Truly it can be said that the NFL is the brain child of Bruno Jacob even though now in its maturity it stretches from Coast to Coast and includes among its members the vast majority of high schools

which maintain effective and outstanding training courses in all forms of effec-

bilized populations that a fellow citizen achieves fame and distinction while continuing to live in the same community and working at the same assignments for

virtually all of his active and productive years. To do so requires a sense of dedication, a devotion to duty, a steadily expanding vision, and a capacity to work constructively with close associates. That has been the genius of Bruno

E. Jacob who has, indeed, achieved both distinction and greatness by his pro-

gressive, patient, and persistent administration of the rapidly expanding affairs of the National Forensic League. To Bruno Jacob, every American who

appreciates the importance of effective public speaking in this great self-gov-

cept other attractive opportunities, Bruno Jacob has dedicated himself to the building of our NFL; its development into the outstanding high school forensic

society in America; and its steadily expanding programs offering training and contests in competitive public speaking. In 1969, we who know him best still love him most and we salute him on his devotion to excellency in speech and

At considerable financial sacrifice to himself and by refusing to ac-

erning Republic owes a lasting debt of gratitude.

Salute to Bruno. E. Jacob

Listen to an audio

recording of the 1969

retirement banquet

for Bruno E. Jacob

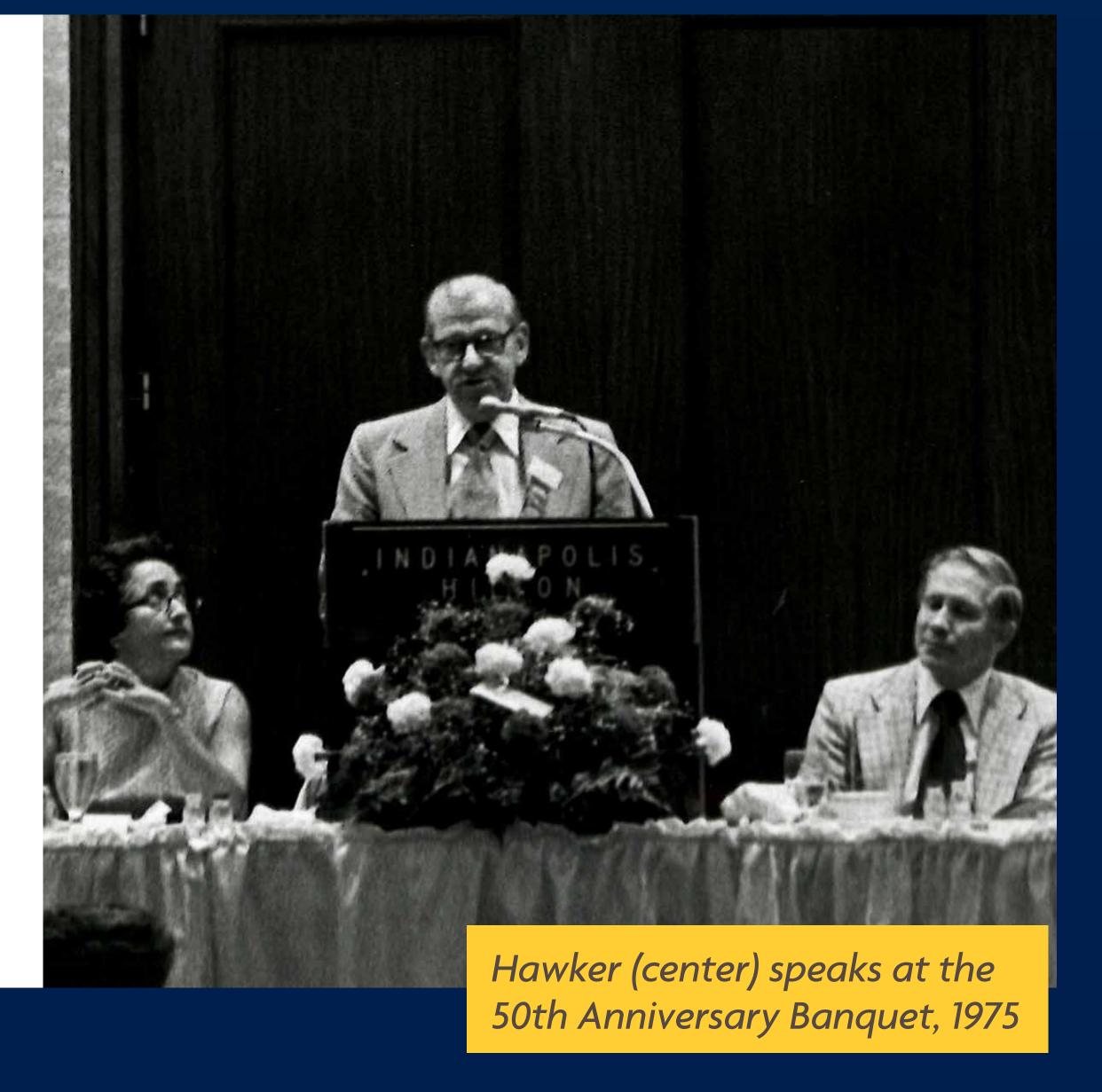
from Senator Mundt

It is seldom in these days of rapidly changing circumstances and mo-

I first met Bruno Jacob at his home in Ripon, Wisconsin in 1924 when

NEW LEADERSHIP

Shortly after Bruno E. Jacob's retirement, another instrumental figure in the organization, Senator Karl E. Mundt, retired as President. James F. Hawker from Indiana was elected Board President in 1971.



NATIONAL SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION