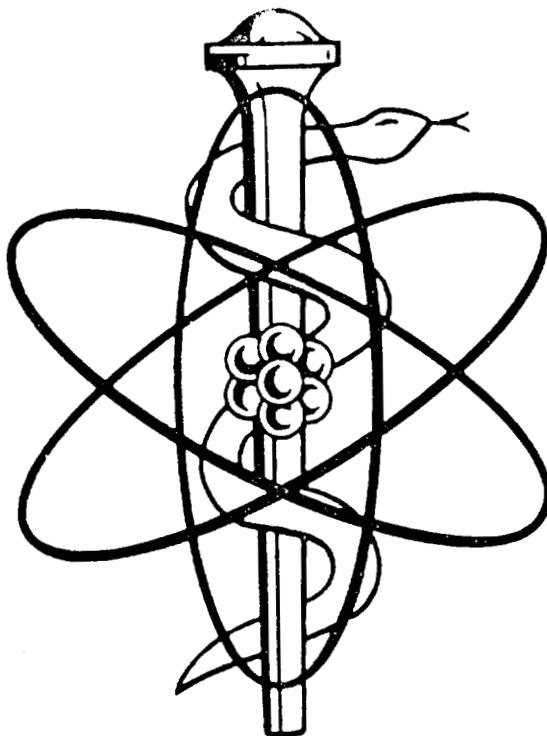


TEXAS A+M ARCHIVES  
 REPOSITORY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS  
 COLLECTION PAUL AEBERSOLD PAPERS  
 BOX No. 15  
 FOLDER EARLY HISTORY of RADIOISOTOPES  
FROM REACTORS FALL 1946



**THE SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE**  
**EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

upon the recommendation of the  
 Society of Nuclear Medicine presents

**THE PAUL C. AEBERSOLD AWARD**

to

**WM. G. MYERS, PH.D., M.D.**

for his Outstanding Achievement in  
 Basic Science applied to Nuclear Medicine

1973

**BAL MASQUE**

Thursday Afternoon, June 14, 1973

3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

**NUCLEAR PIONEER LECTURE**

Honoring

Lise Meitner

as the Distinguished Nuclear Pioneer

Presented by

Otto Frisch

Cambridge University

---

Presentation of the

FIRST PAUL C. AEBERSOLD AWARD

to

William G. Myers

---

**BAL MASQUE**

4:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

20th Annual Meeting of The Society of Nuclear Medicine

Miami, Florida, 12-15 June 1973

Awards ceremonies preceding the business meeting,

14 June 1973

\* \* \* \* \*

Introductory remarks by Doctor Monte Blau, Ph.D. - President of The Society (1972-1973) regarding the first presentation of the newly created Paul C. Aebersold Award "for Outstanding Achievement in Basic Science applied to Nuclear Medicine."

Doctor Monte Blau --

"It is fitting that this award, this first award, goes to Bill Myers. The strength of The Society of Nuclear Medicine, as many of us recognize, is its cross-disciplinary nature. Although The Society has medicine in its title, it has science in its heart. And the combination of scientists and physicians is what has made nuclear medicine itself an important phenomenon and The Society of Nuclear Medicine an important institution.

"Bill Myers says (at least when he's polite to me) that he is prouder he is a chemist than that he is a physician. I can only say that the last of his many degrees was the M.D. Unlike many other nuclear pioneers, he is a native American - he was born in Toledo. Again, we could go through all of the titles and lists of places, etc., etc.

"But the thing we really have to remember about Bill Myers is that he taught us there were many radionuclides (we used to call them radioisotopes in those days) that were not Iodine-131. They sat there as a whole chart full and he has pointed out that many of them might have very useful properties for our use. And I think he holds the distinction of having introduced into medicine more nuclides than any other single person. They include (and I do not mean to indicate a total list): Cobalt-60, Gold-198, Chromium-51, Iodine-125, Iodine-123, Strontium-87m, Carbon-11 and some others. When one thinks about this, it is quite an incredible achievement. Some of this work he shared with Paul Aebersold and it is fitting that he be the first recipient of The Paul C. Aebersold Award.

"We have a double pleasure, a triple pleasure today, in that Mrs. Aebersold is here, and I will ask her to present the award to Doctor Myers."

(Applause)

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Mrs. Paul C. Aebersold --

"President Blau, Doctor Goodrich [Chairman of The Awards Committee], Honored guests Dr. & Mrs. Wm. Myers, Members of The Society of Nuclear Medicine ---

"When Dr. Goodrich called to invite me to be here today, a flood of memories -- laughter, tears, humility and pride, overwhelmed me. He also told me the heartwarming news that Dr. Myers was to be the first recipient of The Paul Aebersold Award. And he's the father of our grandchildren -- (!stammer!) -- he's the father of our Godchildren -- he's the Godfather of our children -- (Hilarious Laughter) -- Okay, now we can all relax!!

"Paul and Bill Myers were 'spiritual brothers' -- a mutual admiration society. My emotions overflow with grateful appreciation that your Society has 'remembered to remember' both of these men -- and Paul would be bursting with joy at your recognition of his efforts -- which were unceasing.

"This is an appropriate time for me also to pay tribute to Paul's work, and his enthusiastic faith in the vast possibilities of radioisotopes -- a word few people had heard 30 years ago.

"I can justifiably compare him with Don Quixote: He had vision and hope -- he was a man with a mission, and a sense of humor. He taught our parakeet to say "R A D I O I S O T O P E S."

"Today we are also paying tribute to Dr. Myers and his splendid contributions to our world, which you of this Society fully appreciate.

I quote Einstein:

"When all the results of a research project are compiled, it seems fairly simple. But the years of searching in the dark for a truth one knows exists, the alternations between confidence and doubt until one breaks through to clarity can be understood only by those who have themselves experienced it."

"Ojala in Spanish means, would that God might grant. And so I say Ojala that you all enjoy health and continue to carry your unique talents to noble and satisfying fruition - for it is the creative urge which makes beings fully human.

"This event will remain one of the most treasured of my life. As a memento for Dr. Myers I made this candle holder, symbolic of the motto of the Christophers, and of what your Society is doing!

'It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness!

"Thank you -- forever

"And now, dear Bill, beloved friend, It is my joy and honor to present the first award from this great Society to you who are so worthy."

(Applause)

Doctor Monte Blau --

"I know this is going to be very hard for people who know Doctor Myers to believe, but he has a few words to say."

(Laughter)

William G. Myers --

"I have many words to say, but I have insufficient time to say all of the ones I should like to say.

"When the lightning bolt hit me in January in a telephone call from Doctor Goodrich, I wondered why - knowing so many people in our Society who are worthy of this very high honor - and I have been trying to find out why - I was chosen to be the first recipient. But, I can assure you that I have encountered only a stony silence as to why I was chosen.

"But I did a little sleuthing on my own and I found that there were, among the many worthy candidates, there were two outstanding ones. And when the committee voted, it came out to be a five-to-five tie. And so they had to break the tie by tossing a coin. And when they did that, lo and behold, the coin stood on edge (laughter). And so, they said --- 'Well, good old Bill, he's a Charter Member and he has known Paul Aebersold perhaps as well and as long as any.' And so, there you are - you have an explanation.

"I am delighted to accept this award - not in the sense of any one single person - there are so many people worthy of this award. But I am happy to accept The Paul C. Aebersold Award in the spirit that each year - (and I'm very glad that The Society has established this award) - that each year we will have the occasion to be reminded of the man who made it possible, in so many ways, for our Society to emerge. Last year I talked to Doctor Asa Seeds, our beloved Historian Emeritus, and he reminded me that Paul Aebersold, more than any other person made it possible for radioisotopes to become available, for the emergence of nuclear medicine. He said Paul was behind the formation of The Society from the start, and that he was its first Honorary Member.

"Now, The Society has grown so rapidly and so large so fast that many of you have not known Paul Aebersold. And I will not be able to do justice to the contributions that made his work so significant to all of us. Doctor Blau did ask me to bring a few slides along of Paul Aebersold to illustrate something of his associates and of his work. This has been a very frustrating experience - I have chosen only a dozen slides, and I shall go through them quickly - out of several hundreds that I suppose I have of Doctor Paul C. Aebersold.

"This first picture was taken at the time of the meeting in Pittsburg in 1961. And the other person, of course, you recognize to be the late Professor George Charles de Hevesy who is our guardian angel in nuclear medicine, as you know, together with Doctor Aebersold at that meeting.

"The next slide shows a picture of Professor Hevesy again, and an inscription on it dated in 1951: "To Doctor Paul C. Aebersold, the highly merited promoter of the preparation and supply of radioactive isotopes, from a veteran of their application," which was signed - "George Hevesy."

"This next picture was taken in Professor Hevesy's laboratory in Stockholm in August 1950, and it shows Doctor Aebersold, a graduate student, Professor Hevesy, and myself.

"This picture was made a few weeks earlier (7 August 1950) and shows Doctor Aebersold conversing with Professor Niels Bohr in Copenhagen. And, among the things they discussed, was the significance of the Bohr atom and such phenomena with which we are familiar and which we utilize such as the conversion process, isomeric transition, electron capture, and the Auger electron process.

"This slide shows an early paper by Paul Aebersold and John Lawrence, published in 1942, on 'The Physiological Effects of Neutron Rays.' Now, notice this is only 10 years after the discovery of neutrons by Chadwick. And, actually, one of the first papers that Paul wrote (he was sandwiched between John Lawrence and Ernest Lawrence) was in 1936. I think it was the first paper that was ever published describing the unusually high radiation biological effects of neutron rays - and only four years after the discovery of the neutron!

"This one I put in to show you that we did get around together a bit. The picture was taken in Guadalajara in Mexico in November 1952. We were both to speak a half hour, and you see me here sitting like a judge, listening to Paul. Of course, I had heard his talks many times, as he had

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mine. I thought it might be interesting to show that we really did get around together internationally.

"In a moment of levity, outside our home in Columbus, this picture was taken shortly after we had returned from Europe in 1953 - with a French beret on me, and a Tyrolian hat on Paul.

"Now, among the other attributes of Paul was that he was a splendid teacher. And we were most fortunate to have him lecture to my class - in what would now be called Nuclear Medicine - each year for many, many years. This picture was taken within a month of the founding of this Society in 1954 when we put on a course on 'Isotopes in Clinical Medicine' under the auspices of The American College of Physicians. And you see here that we had a distinguished Faculty. Here is Paul Aebersold, and then Doctor Doan - the Dean of our medical school. And, incidentally, Doctor Doan began to use P-32 in the late '30s that was generated by Paul Aebersold with Ernest Lawrence's cyclotron. It came to us from Berkeley through the mail with a three-cent stamp on it, back in those days (laughter). Here, of course, you will recognize Doctor Charles Dunham, who did so much to promote medical uses of radioisotopes. This is really the formula for giving a successful course, having people like this on your Visiting Faculty. Paul was a superb teacher, indeed!

"Now, in addition to his many scientific papers in basic physics and in biophysics, he also wrote no less than 100 articles designed to popularize uses of isotopes, particularly in the field of medicine. And, these were lovingly collected together, along with his various letters, and are listed in this book (60 pages, closely typed) - 'Inventory of The Paul C. Aebersold Papers, 1924-1970,' which were dedicated just last year. Mrs. Aebersold presented them as a gift to Texas A&M University. The guiding spirit for this endeavor was Doctor Richard Wainerdi, the Vice President, who accepted them. He wrote in this letter - "The Paul C. Aebersold papers are now available for study and research, in perpetuity, by students in the fields of radioactive isotopes and radiation." They occupy a shelf no less than eight feet long in the Library of Texas A&M University, at College Station, Texas. I've heard rumors that an Historian is about to be appointed, and I can assure you that this Historian is going to go down and look through these papers.

"Among the splendid articles Paul published were these two. The top one up there on the slide is this one in my hand. He gave me a large

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number of reprints of it a long time ago. And I have used it in the teaching of nuclear medicine in my classes at The Ohio State University now for 24 years. Almost a thousand students have benefited from reading this beautiful paper, which was written in 1941 on 'The Cyclotron: A Nuclear Transformer.' For those of you, who are really interested in the early history of nuclear medicine, you can't find a better source of it than this paper in the June-1956 issue of The American Journal of Roentgenology in which Paul wrote on 'The Development of Nuclear Medicine.'

"Here we see a sample of Paul's salesmanship of radioisotopes. As a result of it, he became known in the popular/<sup>press</sup>as 'Mr. Isotope' because of his being such a dynamic and often-invited speaker. And this is an official AEC portrait photograph made of him approximately in 1960.

"Now, he had his lighter moments. Whatever Paul did, he always did it with full throttle. And here he is dancing in our home at the time he came to help us dedicate our Cancer Research Laboratories in 1953, dancing with his lovely Mickey [Florence], whom you've just met. And, to illustrate the perfectionist that he was, the following year they went to South America and they won the Tango Contest, in Argentina, where the Tango was invented (Laughter).

As Mrs. Aebersold mentioned [!], we were the Godparents of their three children - one of the highest honors that Mrs. Myers and I have enjoyed. This fine family appears in this picture, taken in 1962. On the left, we see young Paul M. Aebersold, who is now working in the field of Medical Physics. He has just passed his preliminary examinations out at Donner Laboratory in Berkeley. When I was teaching out there a few months ago, I found he was studying for his French language examination. And I said, 'Well look, young man, why don't you help out 'Uncle' Bill at the same time? Here is a one-page paper on the discovery of the  $\gamma$ -ray, in French. And I wish you would translate this for me because this is the basis of all 'inside-out' imaging. If you translate it, perhaps it can be published in The Journal, or elsewhere, for the benefit of The Society of Nuclear Medicine.' So, perhaps you'll be seeing this translation by young Paul. Next to him is his sister, Connie [Constance] who is teaching school in Oakland, California. Then comes dear Mickey, whom you've met here - she really looks like her daughters. And next is little Mickey Claire. She has just finished her training to become a professional musician. She is a concert pianist, and I believe she has won every contest she has entered.

Mrs. Aebersold is leaving here early tomorrow morning to fly up to her wedding on Saturday (16 June 1973).

(Lights, please)

"In The Paul Aebersold Memorial Lecture, given by Glenn T. Seaborg on 2 December 1969 at a meeting of The American Nuclear Society, he had this to say: 'Let me express my gratitude for being invited to deliver this memorial lecture in honor of Dr. Paul Aebersold, whose scientific career took him from pioneer to beneficial promoter in the field of radioisotopes. Dr. Aebersold was a member of that stimulating and creative group of scientists under Professor Ernest O. Lawrence [his preceptor, incidentally] who developed the cyclotron. Dr. Aebersold participated in the production and application of the first radioactive materials (sodium-24 and phosphorus-32) administered to human beings in the mid 1930s. I knew Paul for more than 30 years and I have vivid memories of the role he played during those early exciting days at The Radiation Laboratory at Berkeley. His enthusiasm for research in radioisotopes and related fields exerted a contagious influence on the Laboratory staff.' And I can attest that among his outstanding attributes was his ability to convey projections of his contagious enthusiasm for anything he did, and particularly for radioisotopes.

"One of the great secondary benefits, maybe it's the primary benefit, of the 'twinkling' atoms - if each of us here would think of it - is that they have brought us all together. And that we have met, through these 'twinkling' atoms that were created through the intuition [of Lise Meitner and Otto Frisch] about which we have just heard, as well as that of Prof. Lawrence, of Joliot and the Curies, and of Fermi. We have been brought together by, and 'twinkling' atoms (I like to say it this way) bring together 'scintillating' people. If we think of those around us, some of our finest friends and associates have been through 'twinkling' atoms. Certainly they brought us to know Dr. and Mrs. Aebersold and their lovely family. In fact, I met Lise Meitner in Stockholm in 1953 through my efforts with 'twinkling' atoms. And I would say that Dr. Paul Aebersold really was a 'scintillating' person of the first order.

"I am so grateful! And I am delighted to accept this award, named to honor Paul Aebersold, who did so very much to help in the emergence of this Society of Nuclear Medicine. I'm sure Paul would want me to say that 'we all stand on the shoulders of giants,' and we have learned just during the hour of two of the really great giants that made nuclear medicine possible. Thank you all so very much!

- (Applause) -

[Mrs. Paul C. Aebersold - 14 Jun 73, Society of Nuclear Medicine]

"President Blau, Doctor Goodrich, Honored guests Dr. & Mrs. Wm. Myers  
Members of the Society of Nuclear Medicine

"When Dr. Goodrich called to invite me to be here today, a flood of memories -- laughter, tears, humility and pride, overwhelmed me. He also told me the heartwarming news that Dr. Myers was to be the first recipient of the Paul Aebersold Award.

"Paul and Bill Myers were "spiritual brothers" -- a mutual admiration society. My emotions overflow with grateful appreciation that your Society has "remembered to remember" both of these men --- and Paul would be bursting with joy at your recognition of his efforts - which were unceasing.

"This is an appropriate time for me also to pay tribute to Paul's work, and his enthusiastic faith in the vast possibilities of radioisotopes -- a word few people had heard 30 years ago.

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"Ojala in Spanish means would that God might grant. So I say Ojala that you all enjoy health and continue to carry your unique talents to noble and satisfying fruition - for it is the creative urge which makes beings fully human.

"This event will remain one of the most treasured of my life. As a memento for Dr. Myers I made this candle holder, symbolic of the motto of the Christophers, and of what your Society is doing!

It's better to light one candle than curse the darkness.

"Thank you -- forever

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14 June 1973, 20th Annual Meeting of The Society of Nuclear Medicine, Bal Harbour, Florida - Slides projected re Paul C. Aebersold at the request of President Monte Blau, by William G. Myers during the presentation to Doctor Myers of the first Paul C. Aebersold Award for his "Outstanding Achievement in Basic Science Applied to Nuclear Medicine."

1) Professor George C. de Hevesy and Paul C. Aebersold in 1961 at the time of the meeting of The Society of Nuclear Medicine, in Pittsburgh

2) Prof. Hevesy portrait photograph, with note penned at the bottom:

"To Dr. Paul C. Aebersold the highly merited promotor of the preparation and supply of radioactive isotopes from a veteran of their application, /s/ G. Hevesy 1951

3) Paul C. Aebersold, Lembitu Reio, Prof. Hevesy, William G. Myers - Picture taken in Hevesy's laboratory in Stockholm, in August 1950

4) Logan B. Emlet, Neils Bohr, Paul C. Aebersold - Kodachrome taken outside of Prof. Bohr's laboratory in Copenhagen, 7 August 1950

5) Paul C. Aebersold and John H. Lawrence, outside Hall of Mirrors of the Versailles Palace, Bastille Day, 14 July 1950

6) THE PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF NEUTRON RAYS, Paul C. Aebersold and John H. Lawrence, Annual Review of Physiology, Vol. IV, 25-48, 1942

7) William G. Myers (seated) and Paul C. Aebersold (lecturing) at The College of Medicine at Guadalajara, Mexico, November 1952

8) Bill Myers (black beret) and Paul C. Aebersold (green Tyrolian hat) at front door of 2724 Wexford Road, Columbus, 18 Oct 53 - Kodachrome

9) William G. Myers, Charles L. Dunham, Dean Charles A. Doan, and Paul C. Aebersold in March 1956, during a postgraduate course Mar 19-31, "ISOTOPES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE" for American College of Physicians

10) Title: "Inventory Of the PAUL C. AEBERSOLD PAPERS 1924-1970" The 60-page listing of the papers was compiled by Texas A&M University Library, where the papers occupy eight feet of shelf space

11) Composite of 2 reference titles of papers by Paul C. Aebersold:

1) The Cyclotron: A Nuclear Transformer. Radiology 39: 513-540 (Nov 1942);

11) THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE. Am. J. Roent. Radium Therapy & Nuclear Medicine 75: 1027-1039 (June 1956)

12) Dr. Paul C. Aebersold - Mister Isotope --- 4 May 60 Science World

13) Florence ["Mickey"] & Paul Aebersold (in bongo drum shirt) dancing 9 May 1953. He had lectured in the morning during the Dedication of The Cancer Research Laboratories of The Ohio State University

14) Paul M. Aebersold (son), Constance (daughter), Mrs. Aebersold, Claire (daughter) and Paul C. Aebersold - Kodachrome, May 1962

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## Prof. Myers Receives Award for Work In Nuclear Medicine

Professor William G. Myers became the initial recipient of a newly-created award for his "Outstanding Achievement in Basic Science Applied to Nuclear Medicine" at the recent annual meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine, held in Miami.

The award was in the form of a plaque to commemorate Dr. Paul Aebersold, a nuclear pioneer who became the first director of the Radioisotopes Division at Oak Ridge, Tenn., as soon as the wartime, nuclear-reactor by-products could be released for applications in medicine and other peaceful purposes.

Additionally, Professor Myers was elected to be historian of the 6300-member Society of Nuclear Medicine, of which he is a charter member.

Early recognition of the potential for applications of "the peaceful atom" in biomedicine resulted in the initiation of a course in nuclear medicine at The

Ohio State University, which Professor Myers has taught for 24 years.

He has served for several years as well, as visiting professor of nuclear medicine at The University of California, at Berkeley.

Nuclear medicine has mushroomed in significance so rapidly that last year it became the most recent specialty board in medicine. It is estimated that approximately 15-20 percent of all patients admitted to hospitals today already benefit from diagnostic or therapeutic procedures uniquely dependent on man-made radioisotopes, and new uses are expanding rapidly.



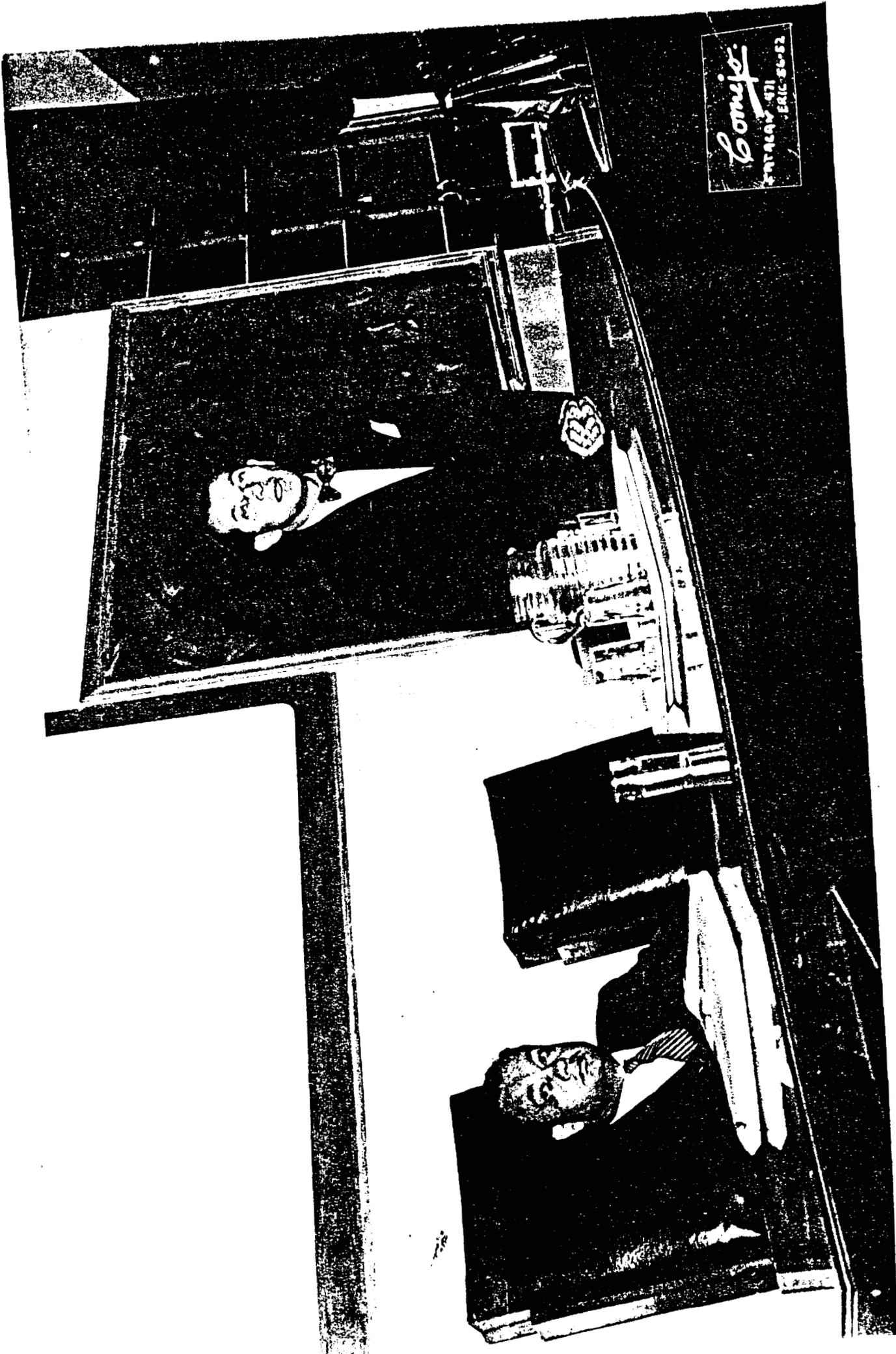
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