

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
THE INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES**

(CONTINUED FROM *B.A.J.* 5, I, 49-54)

[The Institute of Actuaries, 8 July 1998]

1A. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING PRESIDENT,
MR D. G. R. FERGUSON,
FROM A PAST PRESIDENT,
MR C. D. DAYKIN

Duncan, today you complete your final task as President of the Institute of Actuaries and can now join the ranks of Past Presidents. This may engender a sense of profound relief — that you can now get back to other things, after devoting so many of your waking hours (and possibly some of your sleeping hours as well) to the service of the profession. It may, on the other hand, leave you with a great sense of loss, almost bereavement, as you are no longer the person to whom the world's actuaries look as the representative and ambassador of the most senior actuarial professional body in the world, you are no longer the person responsible for carrying the profession's flag forward at home and abroad, you are no longer the one in the driving seat, but, instead, one of many offering helpful advice to the driver.

The profession would not want to let this moment go by without acknowledging our debt of gratitude to you for your distinguished term as President, and offering you a memento of the last two years. It has indeed been an extremely busy couple of years for you, and for the profession, not least because of the build-up to our 150th Anniversary, which we formally celebrate today, but which has been marked by a succession of events, including a memorable and outstandingly successful International Congress of Actuaries in Birmingham a month ago.

During your Presidency you made considerable strides forward in raising the public profile of the profession, engendering debate on the important issue of the public interest. You presided over the bringing forward of a fundamental review of the Memorandum on Professional Conduct, over the formulation and implementation of a new strategy for our education and examination system and over the initiation of a process to broaden the membership of the profession and to increase our influence in the universities. You played a major role in achieving major and comprehensive constitutional change at the international level and in strengthening relationships on a bilateral basis with other actuarial associations, including our sister organisation, the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland, and the associations in the European Union and in North America.

You have travelled the length and breadth of the world to represent the Institute among its far-flung members and with other actuarial bodies. We all admire the energy with which you have approached this task and the eloquence with which you have promoted the profession and your vision for its future. Now is the time for us to show, at least in token measure, our thanks to you for the splendid way in which you have fulfilled, and indeed exceeded, our reasonable expectations for a President of the Institute of Actuaries at the end of the second millenium, and to congratulate you for your contribution to the enhancement of our profession's role and image.

As a token of our thanks, and as a permanent memento of the Presidential badge which you have worn with such distinction and pride, I have pleasure in presenting you with a replica of that badge for you to keep and to wear in the future on appropriate occasions.