

Canadian Minister, Senator and MP visit CFHT

The Honorable John Roberts (L., St.-Paul), Minister of State for Science and Technology and the Minister of the Environment, Senator R. van Roggen, Mr. Roger Simmons (L. Burin-St. George), parliamentary secretary to Minister Roberts, and Mr. Kevin Hood, council liaison officer, visited the CFHT in Waimea and on Mauna Kea on 6 and 7 January, 1982. Dr. J.L. Locke, Head, Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, was also in Hawaii to greet the distinguished party.

At a luncheon at the new Sheraton Royal Waikoloa at Anaehoomalu on 6 January the visitors met with representatives of other telescope facilities on Mauna Kea and with members of the Big Island community, exchanging views on the value of Hawaii as a research environment and of astronomy as a research activity. Minister Roberts and his group then proceeded to Mauna Kea for a night time visit to the CFHT where they had the opportunity to ride in the prime focus cage and to inspect the surface of the Moon with the 3.6-m telescope. Coming to Waimea on 7 January, our guests were greeted by the CFHT staff before proceeding to an inspection of the construction site where work on the new Base Facility had just begun. A tour of the other telescopes on Mauna Kea, planned for later in the day, had to be cancelled due to a severe snow storm at the summit.



The Honorable John Roberts in the prime focus cage has received instructions and awaits his turn to view the moon.

It appeared that the visit was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants. Our Canadian guests went back with a first hand appreciation of the CFHT facility, and our Hawaiian team was especially proud to demonstrate the excellence of our installations.

Observations with the Coude Spectrograph

A. Boesgaard and R. Lavery led off the coudé observing in early January with a moderately successful run. Two of their four nights were useful, with a combination of poor weather and the visit of Minister Roberts interrupting observations. They obtained good Reticon spectra of some F and G stars in a study Ca II K-line emission variability.

The following run, by W. Wehlauf and J. Rice, was more successful. They obtained many good spectra of bright Ap stars in several wavelength regions. By studying line profile changes they hope to map the surface distributions of chemical elements in these stars.

In January and early February much engineering was done at the coudé. A new slit viewing system was installed which enables TV viewing and remote exchange between slit and field viewing. The field

viewing field is about 1.5 arc minutes. Limiting magnitudes are 13.5 for slit viewing, and 16 for field viewing.

Also commissioned were the new red and UV image slicers. A test of the new red slicer indicates that it passes about 20% more light than the old slicer. New cable trays and cables were also installed at the coudé, and this has permitted the CAMAC crate to be removed from the slit room.

Since the engineering in February, no one has observed at the coudé. Three runs were scheduled, by S. Wolff and J. Heasley, B. Campbell, and G. and R. Cayrel. All were snowed out, and in fact the Cayrels spent one week at Hale Pohaku, never able to even get to the summit because of snow on the road! We trust that the poor weather of this semester is all there will be for the next decade.