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SEARCH FOR MINERALS, FUELS MAIN TOPIC AT 1ST PECORA SYMPOSIUM

The use of satellite pictures and other remotely sensed data of the Earth's surface to explore for new mineral and fuel deposits will be the main topic of the 1st Annual William T. Pecora Memorial Symposium Oct. 28-31 in Sioux Falls, S. D., the U. S. Geological Survey announced.

More than 500 government, industry and university scientists from around the world are expected to attend the symposium, named after the late USGS Director and Undersecretary of the Interior. Specialists from the United States, Canada, France, Mexico and Bolivia are scheduled to present more than 30 technical papers on remote sensing, mostly by NASA's LANDSAT Earth resources survey satellites.

Dr. Pecora, who died July 19, 1972, at the age of 59, was a career geologist with the USGS who served as Director of the Survey from 1965 until he was named Interior Undersecretary a year before his death. He was instrumental in the establishment in 1966 of the Interior Department's EROS (Earth Resources Observation Systems) program, which is managed by the USGS and aimed at using satellite images and other remotely sensed data in a wide variety of Earth resources studies and projects.

The Pecora Symposium, to be held at the downtown Holiday Inn in Sioux Falls, will include guided tours of the EROS Data Center near Sioux Falls. The Data Center is the main repository and public sales outlet for LANDSAT data as well as other satellite and aircraft remote sensing data.

The first Pecora Symposium is being sponsored by the American Mining Congress in concert with the USGS, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, American Society of Photogrammetry, Association of American Geographers, Geological Society of America and Society of Economic Geologists.

Each year the Pecora Symposium will feature a different theme relating to the use of remote sensing data. The 1976 symposium also will be held in Sioux Falls and will concentrate on the uses of satellite data for world-wide mapping purposes. The principal sponsoring organization will be the American Society of Photogrammetry.

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