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Hans Bethe Singular Honor [ARTICLE]

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Hans Bethe . . .

Singular Honor

President Kennedy presented the Enrico Fermi award to one of the most realistic of U.S. nuclear physicists when he handed the medal and \$50,000 check to Cornell's Hans Albrecht Bethe on Friday. At a time when scientists are becoming more willing to make broad statements based largely on supposition, the rock-hard logic behind every idea coming from the orderly mind of Professor Bethe is most welcome.

Much has been said and written about the increasing participation of scientists in developing the political policies of a nuclear-oriented world. Surely few men have a more consistent record of solid contributions than Bethe. He headed the Presidential Advisory Committee which demonstrated, in 1958, that an enforceable test ban was possible. He negotiated at Geneva during 1958-59, and has served this year on the President's nuclear testing advisory panel. He has never received great notoriety from any of his assignments, but his contributions are unimpeachable. As a man capable of reducing complicated ideas to simple terms, Bethe has not received as much credit as his less easily understood colleagues.

The Fermi Award compensates for any lost recognition. It is the highest award this country can give to a nuclear scientist. Named for the man who

supervised the events leading to the first sustained, controlled nuclear reaction ever achieved, it has been given since 1954. The first award went to Dr. Fermi himself.

Occupied at various times during the past two decades with the development of atomic weapons, Professor Bethe has nevertheless contributed to other fields. He is a fine teacher and a highly regarded writer. His work in nuclear physics too has had a broad range of applications, not only in the production of weapons; Bethe's contributions are of a more basic nature.

The Cornell Community takes great pride in the reception of a singular honor by one of its outstanding leaders.

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