



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 4, 1957

I regret to announce the death in Albany, Georgia, on January 2, of William Chapman Potter '97, one of the world's foremost bankers and industrialists and an Emeritus Life Member of the M.I.T. Corporation. He was 82 years old.

Former president and board chairman of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, Mr. Potter started his career as a mining engineer in the West. He extended his activities to Mexico and the Southwest as general manager of the Guggenheim Exploration Company and the American Smelting and Refining Company, and in 1911 became president of the Intercontinental Rubber Company. Soon after he joined the Guaranty Trust as a vice president, Mr. Potter became a member of Guggenheim Brothers and continued to serve Guaranty Trust as a director and member of the executive committee.

For his World War I service as chief of the Equipment Division of the Army Signal Corps, Mr. Potter won the Distinguished Service Medal. He returned to Guaranty Trust in 1921 as chairman of the board of directors, relinquished that post to be president of the bank for thirteen years, and resumed the chairmanship from 1934 to 1941. Mr. Potter was chairman of the bank's executive committee until 1946, when he became a director, and last January was named a director emeritus. He had also held directorships with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Anaconda Company, Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, and many other firms, and had served as treasurer and trustee of the Juilliard Musical Foundation. He was among the financial and industrial men who conferred with Presidents Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt concerning the restoration of confidence in the country during the Depression and the changes in laws affecting banks and the stock market when the New Deal was in power.

Mr. Potter is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Jean P. Allen of Southampton, L.I., and Mrs. Charlotte P. Jennings of New York, and a granddaughter. Funeral services will be held tomorrow (January 5) in Westbury, Long Island.

James R. Killian, Jr.  
President

W.C.  
Potter  
Death