

August 21, 1944

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Dr. Gordon C. Harold,
American Industrial Hygiene Assn.,
Chrysler Corporation,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Gordon:

Thanks very much for your two letters of August 9.

I am particularly grateful to have your suggestions for a lecturer to give the Donald E. Cummings Memorial Lecture. Yours are the first suggestions that have come in. Obviously no action will be taken by me, but I shall accumulate all the suggestions, and the matter will be given careful consideration. I consider that your argument in connection with your proposal of Bill Yant is a very good one.

With reference to your query in regard to the so-called squabble about the meeting place, I should say that there is nothing in particular back of it, except what has appeared on the surface. You are well aware of the irritations of one kind or another that have developed between the two organizations. They do not quite see alike on a number of matters, and perhaps it will not be possible to bring them to see alike. The present controversy, if it can be called a controversy, revolves around two main points; - (1) the program at St. Louis was so arranged that the meetings of the two societies often occurred simultaneously, and therefore it was impossible for one to hear the papers that he would have wanted to listen to in both programs; and (2) the emphasis in the A.A.I.P. and S. management has been too much on the importance of commercial exhibits. Actually at St. Louis, the scientific exhibits were mixed in with commercial exhibits to some extent, and the way to the meeting rooms was so established that it was necessary to go through all of the scientific exhibits if one wished to attend one of the sessions. Representatives of the A.I.H.A. have objected to both of these and feel quite correctly that these matters will have to be corrected if we are to continue joint meetings. In other words, A.I.H.A. representatives insist that a joint meeting is one in which the entire program is available to all, and that commercial considerations should not be permitted to influence in any way the professional and scientific aspects of the meeting. Actually even the meeting place on this occasion is apparently being determined by A.A.I.P. and S. on the basis of the convenience of commercial exhibits. Moreover, at its meeting in St. Louis the Board of Directors of A.I.H.A. agreed that an eastern meeting place would be desirable. Our wishes in this regard have not been

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given much consideration. Obviously, this is not a very good basis for cooperation.

Despite these things I feel that it is advisable to keep the two organizations together as long as possible and to make every attempt to compose our disagreement. If it becomes impossible to do this, A.I.H.A. will have to go its own way. However, in view of the need for concerted action, it is my feeling that we should continue together so long as there is anything to be gained in getting along. As chairman of the Program Committee for this year, I hope to have some opportunity to clarify this situation.

Incidentally, what do you mean by saying "If you should happen to reply to this letter?" Don't I usually reply to letters?

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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