

August 21, 1944

Dr. Frederick W. Slobe, President,
American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons,
2024 South Western Avenue,
Chicago 3, Illinois.

Dear Dr. Slobe:

As you are doubtless aware, there has been some question in the minds of the officers of the American Industrial Hygiene Association as to the feasibility of going through with a joint meeting with the A.A.I.P. and S. during the current year. It so happens that I am president-elect of the A.I.H.A., and as such, am ex officio chairman of the Program Committee for the 1945 meeting. I am not authorized by the Board of Directors and other officers of the A.I.H.A. to present the general situation that obtains in the relationship between the two organizations, but there is at least one aspect of the matter that ought to be clarified before any action is taken toward the development of a joint program for the 1945 meeting. I think, therefore, I ought to present my own point of view at this early stage of the game, and that I should take such steps as are possible, to remove in advance any causes for friction between the two organizations. I am directing this matter primarily to your attention, since it is a matter that involves certain fundamental policies of the two organizations. However, I am sending copies to the other members of the Program Committee of A.I.H.A. as well as to Dr. Holmblad, since I do not want to be guilty of working in the dark. It should be understood, however, that I am expressing my own opinions. Inasmuch as I am an interested member of both sides, I think I can do this without any pretensions. First, let me say that in my opinion as both physician and industrial hygienist (in the technical sense in which the latter is often used), I am convinced of the fundamental importance of unity in spirit and in purpose between these two professional groups. Technically speaking, the activities of the two groups differ somewhat in purpose, their efforts are substantially identical or should be, and it is quite unlikely that either group will succeed handsomely in its effort without

KE 03302

August 21, 1944

Dr. Frederick W. Slobe - (2) - August 21, 1944

the full cooperation of the other. If such cooperation ceased to exist, it can scarcely be a one-sided affair. Therefore, I believe that all of the people in both organizations should examine their actions and make every effort to bring harmony and genuine understanding into the joint activities of the two groups.

I shall not go into a number of matters that to me seem very important. However, I should like the opportunity at some early date to discuss some of these matters with you. However, they are no part of my present duty, and the purpose of the present letter is directed primarily toward the 1945 program. I do not wish to be guilty of criticizing the action of either Program Committee in relation to the St. Louis meeting. Undoubtedly there were factors about which I know nothing, in the organization of the program. The fact remains, however, that the programs of the two societies ran in competition with each other rather than in collaboration. It was quite impossible for anyone who was interested in both meetings to hear the things he wished to hear. This was a source of considerable irritation and disappointment to many of us, and this kind of a situation if allowed to continue will bring about a complete split between the two societies. Such an arrangement is not collaboration, and there would be no point in continuing the association of the two societies if the meetings are to go along in this fashion. The very persons who are most interested in unity and collaboration will be most upset by this policy, and I am sure that under these circumstances such people will tend to dissociate themselves from one or the other of the societies and their meetings. I consider this to be a serious matter. I sincerely hope that we shall be able to arrange a program in 1945 that will be available to all the members of both societies. There may be certain activities of the two groups that could be permitted to run simultaneous. The main meetings, however, should not compete with each other, and there is not the slightest justification for their being permitted to do so.

As chairman of the Program Committee of the A.I.H.A., I should like to get in touch with the proper group in the A.A.I.P. and S. at the earliest possible time in order that we may consider a plan jointly for setting up an actual joint program. In my feeling

Dr. Frederick W. Globe - (5) - August 21, 1944

this should be done soon for the programs ought to be set up at an early date, and they ought to be publicized so that everybody will know just what is intended and just what his part will be in the show. I would appreciate it very much indeed if you would do what you can toward the encouragement of a joint meeting that will be collaborative and friendly in its every aspect.

Another problem in connection with the program has to do with the scientific exhibits. I and my associates in A. I. H. A. are unalterably opposed to the admixture of scientific with commercial exhibits. Scientific exhibits ought to be, and I think can be made a very useful part of the program. I need only cite the example of the scientific exhibits of the American Medical Association which have been found to be one of the most, if not the most significant educational part of the national meetings. These can not with propriety be distributed among the commercial exhibits, and I shall take the position now that if they cannot be set up separately, we will have nothing to do with scientific exhibits. If I had known how the scientific exhibits were to be set up in St. Louis, I should never have permitted our exhibit to leave the Laboratory. I shall make it a point to inquire into this in the future, and I shall not consent to the use of any exhibit of ours mixed in with commercial exhibits. This statement may betray to you my concern about the whole problem of commercial exhibits. However, as I indicated at the start, that is no part of the purpose of this letter, and I shall restrain myself on that score.

I should be very grateful to you for any advice you may wish to give me or for any suggestions that you may care to make to the proper representatives of A. A. I. P. and S. with reference to our program and with specific relation to an early date for a meeting to consider the matter.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

AK ef

KE 03364

C.C.: Dr. Edward C. Colmbled, Dr. Warren A. Cook, Dr. M. H. K...