



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

*Department of
Labor and Industries*

23 Joy Street, Boston 14

Division of Occupational Hygiene

July 27, 1944

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.
College of Medicine
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Bob:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of July 24 to Jack Bloomfield. I agree whole-heartedly with practically everything that you say, and I am 100 per cent for every effort toward genuine unity of purpose and cooperation between the medical and engineering groups in the field of industrial hygiene.

The letter which you received from Jack was identical with one sent by me to the members of the executive committee of the N.C.G.I.H. on July 15, but I supplemented mine with the letter of which a copy is herewith. I believe that you will gather from this that we are up against some unsurmountable difficulties unless the commercial enthusiasm of Messrs. Halos and others who are making a profit out of our meetings can be restrained. His attitude when here was that we could not think of meeting at such a place or on such a date because we would lose so and so many commercial exhibits. On the other hand, he did not appear to give a damn whether the selection of a given time or place of meeting would have an adverse effect on the ability of any number of industrial hygienists to get to the conference. Frankly, he left Phil Drinker and me so fed up with his obvious pursuit of the dollar that we saw no alternative to cutting ourselves adrift from him and his exhibits and reverting to the original purpose of our meetings.

I would be more than interested to have your reply to the above, for I value your opinion most highly. Once again, let me say that I am for cooperation to the utmost, but I have no intention of being told when and where I am to go to meetings by a group who have no interest beyond the product which they want to sell me.

Sincerely yours,

Manfred Bowditch
Director

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTAL INDUSTRIAL HYGIENISTS

July 15, 1944

Mr. J. J. Bloomfield
Dr. P. A. Brehm
Mr. A. M. Brown
Dr. L. W. Foker
Mr. P. J. Houser
Dr. E. E. Markuson

It seems worthwhile to add to my letter of this date the following summary of events since I wrote to you and to Dr. Holmblad on June 13, at which time I assumed that a combined meeting in May, 1945, at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, had been decided on, and that we would have to ride along with this decision.

A circular letter received from Dr. Holmblad on July 5 stated that there were again "some difficulties" as to dates and hotels and proposed the Drake Hotel, Chicago, for the week of April 23. After talking with Miss Dempsey, Professor Drinker, Dr. Lynch and others, I located Mr. Bloomfield by telephone in Chicago and found that he agreed that there were valid objections to this proposal and that an eastern meeting place should again be urged. He did this by telephone, while a number of us here reinforced the argument by wire and letter.

A wire received from Dr. Holmblad on July 6 asked immediate investigation of accommodations in Boston for the week of April 23. Contacts were made with twelve hotels and a favorable report went to Dr. Holmblad by wire and letter the same day.

A telephone call from Mr. S. G. Halos on July 10 informed me that he was in Boston for a personal investigation. A luncheon conference the next day included Miss Dempsey, Professor Drinker, Mr. Halos and the writer.

At this meeting it became quite clear the the preferences of the commercial exhibitors are of overwhelming importance in the selection of places, hotels and dates. We were informed that the week of April 23 was now ruled out and that that of April 2 was proposed. The St. Louis device of forcing everyone to march past seeming miles of commercial exhibits to reach the meeting room was defended by Mr. Halos and strongly condemned by Mr. Drinker and the writer. It was admitted that the overlapping of sessions which those of us who go to meetings to hear the papers found so unfortunate at St. Louis may even be extended under current plans for 1945. The question of possible cleavage between the medical-nursing and industrial hygiene groups was discussed and Mr. Halos was urged, if Boston appeared "out" for commercial reasons, to investigate the possibilities of Atlantic City. Both Professor Drinker and the writer confirmed our views in letters to Dr. Holmblad, the former saying that he "got the impression that the tail was wagging the dog and that we were having this meeting to accomodate the exhibits."

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I have written this at length in order that you may appreciate the extent to which the continuance of present arrangements seems bound to involve us in increasingly difficult, if not actually stultifying situations, brought about by considerations for which we need have no concern. All of this was discussed with Mr. Bloomfield and Dr. Schrenk at Bethesda last Wednesday and our letters to the officers of the AIHA and NCGIH are by agreement at that time. It is my own opinion that we could hold better meetings, fully as well attended, with far less effort and at no undue expense, if we did away with the commercial complications now so ascendant. I believe that considerations of technical and scientific integrity will ultimately force us to this decision and that it might well be made now.

Manfred Bowditch
Chairman

MB:ML

CC: Prof. Philip Drinker
Dr. H. E. Schrenk
Dr. T. L. Shipman

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