

Co-Chair Batchelder and Co-Chair Sykes:

In the best interest of the Commission, I must relinquish my position as chair of the Organization and Administration Committee.

I am now concluding my seventh week without a voice. Today, I finish the medicinal treatment that should have resolved the ailment as my otolaryngologist initially diagnosed it. The ailment has not improved. The questions now are: whether my voice will return; if so, how much of it; will it require surgery? I have no idea now when this voice problem may be resolved. My inability to speak for the last several weeks has affected the performance of my duties as chair. The Commission will not be well if served the situation remains unchanged.

The Committee is in the midst of several matters that are pressing and important to the Commission. On its agenda are: preparing a balanced, flexible budget for the Commission, some items of which are without meaningful precedent and, therefore, require consultation with chairs of the Subject-Matter Committees. The Committee is also preparing the search for the executive director/manager of operations position and will soon be culling applicants to be interviewed. It is also procuring office space, furnishings, and office-services for the full-time staff. The Committee also is refining and finalizing permanent Rules of Procedure and Conduct for the Commission.

Doug Cole graciously agreed to chair the Committee's last meeting because I was admonished – and still am – to speak as little as possible. Doug already chairs a Subject-Matter Committee; it is unfair to expect him to take up my slack with so much work to be done.

It saddens me to add to your burdens as Co-chairs of the Commission by forcing you to have to fill again one of the Organization and Administration Committee's chairs, and I am sure it disappoints you. If both of you agree that it would be best for the Commission, I will resign my position as a member of the Commission. That, however, is not my wish.

Dick