

510 CALIFORNIA BUILDING
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

No. 13

OCTOBER 9, 1951

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HOUSTON, TEXAS

DEAR SIR:

A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH YOUR MR. MURCHISON AND MR. PATTON OF THE NEW ORLEANS OFFICE REVEALED CERTAIN QUESTIONS THAT HAVE ARISEN REGARDING THE GULF COAST ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES. I VOLUNTERED TO PRESENT THE BACKGROUND OF THIS ASSOCIATION AND TAKE THE LIBERTY OF PRESENTING IT TO YOU HEREWITH.

THE NEED FOR A CLOSER ASSOCIATION OF THE TECHNICAL MEN OF THE OIL INDUSTRY WAS DEMONSTRATED BY THE TWO MEETINGS THAT WERE HELD AT BILOXI, SOME FOUR YEARS APART. THESE MEETINGS WERE WELL ATTENDED, WERE WELL RECEIVED, AND CONTRIBUTED TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE GULF COAST. THEY WERE PRIMARILY CONFINED TO THE GULF COAST IN THEME, AND FOR THIS REASON WERE CONSIDERED TO BE PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL. THE THOUGHT OCCURED TO SOME OF US WHO HAD WORKED ON BOTH MEETINGS THAT IT WOULD BE TO THE BENEFIT OF THE INDUSTRY AND THE GEOLOGICAL PROFESSION IF SUCH MEETINGS COULD BE HELD MORE FREQUENTLY AND AT REGULAR INTERVALS.

THIS QUESTION WAS BANDIED ABOUT AND OTHERS NATURALLY AROSE SUCH AS THE NATURE OF SUCH AN ORGANIZATION, THE TECHNICAL PROGRAM, THE METHOD OF SCREENING, MEMBERSHIP, DUES, A MEANS OF PUBLICATION, AND THE QUESTION OF ASSOCIATION WITH A.A.P.G. PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT ALL QUESTIONS WERE DELIBERATED CAREFULLY.

APPRECIATING THE FACT THAT A SHIP WAS IN THE LAUNCHING WHOSE DESTINATION WAS KNOWN BUT WHOSE ROUTE AND SURVIVAL MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO QUESTION, IT WAS DECIDED TO CONSTRUCT IT AS STURDILY AND SIMPLY AS POSSIBLE ON SOUND FUNDAMENTALS, AND TO GIVE IT A TRIAL RUN OF SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE PLOTTING ITS FINAL COURSE TOWARD ITS GOAL - AFFILIATION WITH THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS.

CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO THE FACT THAT THE LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES ARE COMPOSED OF A GOODLY NUMBER OF MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE MEMBERS OF THE A.A.P.G. AND YET PAY THEIR DUES TO THE LOCAL SOCIETIES, CONTRIBUTE TO THE TECHNICAL PROGRAMS, AND SUPPORT THE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS FINANCIALLY IN THEIR VARIOUS FUNCTIONS. IT WAS CONSIDERED UNFAIR TO SET UP AN ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD EXCLUDE SUCH MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL SOCIETIES FROM THE AFFAIRS OF THE PROPOSED ORGANIZATION. IT WAS DEEMED ADVISABLE TO FORMULATE AN ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD NOT REQUIRE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP AND DUES; AN ORGANIZATION OF SOCIETIES NATURALLY FOLLOWED. A STEERING COMMITTEE, COMPOSED OF ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH MEMBER SOCIETY, WAS FORMULATED AS A MEANS OF DIRECTING THE AFFAIRS OF THE ORGANIZATION. A PUBLICATION AND EDITORIAL COMMITTEE FUNCTION UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE. THIS COMMITTEE SCREENS THE MANUSCRIPTS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLICATION AND ARRANGES FOR THEIR PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS OF THE A.A.P.G. AN ORGANIZATION MUST BE CONSTITUTED AND FUNCTIONING BEFORE APPLYING FOR RECOGNITION. THERE IS NO PROVISION IN THE CONSTITUTION OR THE BY LAWS OF THE A.A.P.G. THAT RECOGNIZES AN ORGANIZATION OF SOCIETIES, EXCEPT BY ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE MEMBERS.

THE STEERING COMMITTEE ADOPTED A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE EFFORTS OF THE ASSOCIATION TOWARD AFFILIATION WITH THE A.A.P.G. IS IT UNREASONABLE TO CONSIDER THE AFFILIATION OF A GROUP OF GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES IN A PROVINCE? THERE IS CERTAINLY A NEED FOR PROVINCIAL (I PREFER IT TO REGIONAL) GROUPS AS ALL MEMBERS OF A.A.P.G. WITH WHOM I HAVE TALKED FEEL THAT THAT ORGANIZATION HAS REACHED SUCH PROPORTIONS THAT ALL PROVINCES CANNOT BE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED ON THE TECHNICAL SESSIONS OF THE A.A.P.G.

I ENCLOSE A PHOTOSTAT COPY OF A LETTER FROM MR. C. L. MOODY, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE A.A.P.G., AND COPY OF A LETTER OF INQUIRY FROM THE WRITER TO MR. FRANK MORGAN, PRESIDENT OF THE A.A.P.G., TOGETHER WITH HIS REPLY, EXPRESSING THEIR RESPECTIVE SENTIMENTS.

10-9-51

I PERSONALLY FEEL THAT THIS SORT OF AN ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE GIVEN A TRIAL RUN OF SEVERAL YEARS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER SUCH AN ORGANIZATION JUSTIFIES ITS EXISTENCE. THE AIM OF THE ORGANIZATION IS TO PROMOTE A MORE FREQUENT DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS OF THE GULF COAST AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION AND IDEAS PERTAINING THERETO. IT IS PROPOSED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS BY MEANS OF A TECHNICAL PROGRAM AND DISTRIBUTION OF PREPRINTS AT AN ANNUAL MEETING. THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 15, 16, AND 17, 1951 WITH HEADQUARTERS AT THE ROOSEVELT HOTEL. THE SOUNDNESS OF THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THIS GROUP IS FOUNDED IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE TECHNICAL PROGRAM COMPOSED OF TWENTY-TWO OR MORE PAPERS, MOST OF THEM PREPARED PARTICULARLY FOR THIS MEETING. THE ANNUAL PUBLICATION WILL CONTAIN THE MANUSCRIPTS OF TEN OR MORE OF THE PAPERS. IT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FREE, THE COST BEING COVERED BY ADVERTISING. THE AUTHORS OF THE UNPUBLISHED PAPERS AND OF THE PUBLISHED PAPERS WILL BE URGED TO PUBLISH THEM IN THE BULLETIN OF THE A.A.P.G. OVER 550 REQUESTS FOR RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED TO DATE AND THE REGISTRATION MAY REACH 750 OR MORE.

AS HOST, THE NEW ORLEANS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY HAS PLANNED CERTAIN FEATURES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE MEETING. THE OPERATING COMPANIES HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO MAKE A NOMINAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES OF THE NEW ORLEANS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, AND I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY TWO REJECTIONS OUT OF SEVENTEEN REPLIES, BOTH OF THOSE BY COMPANIES NOT REPRESENTED IN THE NEW ORLEANS AREA. I TRUST THAT WE MAY HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE HUMBLE OIL & REFINING CO. IT IS NOT ANTICIPATED THAT THERE WILL BE A SURPLUS, BUT, IN THAT EVENT, IT WILL BE USED TO DEFRAY THE COST OF PRINTING VOLUME I OF "THE OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH LOUISIANA" TO BE PUBLISHED BY THE NEW ORLEANS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. THIS VOLUME WILL INCLUDE ALL FIELDS EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER. IT IS SCHEDULED FOR DISTRIBUTION BY JUNE 1952.

I TRUST THAT THE ABOVE WILL SERVE TO ANSWER SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS. I WOULD APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ANSWER PERSONALLY OTHERS THAT YOU MAY HAVE.

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO YOU AND YOUR STAFF TO BE WITH US IN NOVEMBER.

YOURS VERY TRULY,

GULF COAST ASSN. OF GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

BY

LESLIE BOWLING, CHAIRMAN
STEERING COMMITTEE

LB:MM