FIRST AIPG SECTION ORGANIZED

The first section of AIPG was organized on September 26, 1964 at the Commodore Perry Hotel in Austin, Texas, at a meeting of Texas AIPG members and applicants attended by President Van Couvering.

The Texas Section at this meeting adopted a Constitution and By-laws and elected the following officers: Michel T. Halbouty of Houston, President; A. Wayne Wood of San Antonio, Vice-President; James A. Wheeler of Houston, Secretary-Treasurer; Howard E. Rothrock of Coleman, interim Past-President and Delegate to the National Advisory Board; Frank B. Conselman of Abilene, Charles F. Passel of Fort Worth and John S. Rives of San Antonio, Executive Committee members; Richard R. Bloomer of Abilene, Chairman of the Screening Board; and Thomas D. Barber of Houston, Chairman of the Public Information Committee.

Organization of the Texas Section is now subject to the approval of the Executive Committee of AIPG, which had already extended preliminary approval in principle to the Constitution and By-laws. Upon acceptance, the Section will undertake the very important functions of screening membership applications of Texas geologists and of electing representation to the National Advisory Board. Invitations to new members will be organized on a state-wide basis, and President Halbouty has announced preliminary plans for other activities designed to further the objectives of AIPG within the state.

Prospective sections in other states wishing to organize are invited to obtain copies of the Texas Section’s Constitution and By-laws for information and guidance. Requests should be addressed to Mr. James A. Wheeler, Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas Section AIPG, 1910 Esperson Building, Houston, Texas 77002.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

In his speech to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, George Washington declared, “Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair; the rest is in the hands of God.”

In its small and specialized way, this is what AIPG is attempting to do, and as of October 16, 422 applicants had already repaired to its standard. Of these, 191 Professional Geologists have already been certified, and many more are in the pipeline. New applications are now coming in at the rate of 5 per day, and this rate is building. By the time of the Annual Meeting (Nov. 12-13), well over 500 applications will have been received, of which the great majority will have been approved in time for listing as Charter Members.

The Executive Committee is planning to convene one day early to give special attention to completion of processing of as many applications as possible, consistent with careful and complete evaluation. Results will be announced at the Denver convention.

AIPG FORMALLY APPLIES FOR AGI MEMBERSHIP

AIPG, by unanimous vote of its Executive Committee, has submitted formal application for membership in the American Geological Institute, following unofficial exploratory discussions between the two organizations.

Action by AGI on the AIPG application will probably be forthcoming before the end of the current year. AIPG is the only national geological society devoted to the professional aspects of all phases of geology, and as such would serve as a complement to the primarily scientific societies of which AGI is now composed.
EDITORIAL

"The beginnings of all things," observed Cicero quite a few years ago, "are small." With this small beginning, AIPG launches The Professional Geologist, the first of what we fondly hope will be a long and constantly improving series. This is Volume 1, Number 1, and perhaps it should be preserved as a standard of reference for future progress -- a sort of zero milestone to measure our advance in years to come.

Like The Professional Geologist, AIPG is itself new and formative. As an Institute, we are dedicated to the advancement of professional geology. Surely our profession needs a constructive program of self-analysis and self-help in these difficult times. In fact, professional geology is currently in flux, and what it eventually may become will, to a large extent, be determined by what we elect to make it. There is challenge aplenty in our present situation.

The Professional Geologist will even more directly be what we choose to make it. It belongs to the members of AIPG, and has no function other than to serve their best interests, as they are construed to be. Specifically, this is your magazine, and will be what you make it -- a sort of audience-participation journal. Write us and tell us what you like, and what you don't like, what you believe and what you need, and within our limitations we shall do our best to provide an outlet for your ideas. We shall try to give you as much of grass-roots professional origin as our budget will permit.

Sir Francis Bacon wrote, "I hold every man a debtor to his profession." Perhaps AIPG will provide us with a means of discharging this debt. We seem to be overdue.

F. B. C.
With this issue, The Professional Geologist comes into being as the voice of the profession in all matters pertaining to its professional welfare. There are other voices, too, but they do not speak for the whole field in the same way as the American Institute of Professional Geologists aims to. There are many societies covering the scientific aspects of geology; here the emphasis is exclusively on strengthening the profession and increasing its public standing.

Respect is something that cannot be bought or solicited; it has to be earned by the right kind of performance. But competent performance alone has not proved sufficient to provide geology with the professional and public standing it deserves. However, we cannot afford to despair. There are many geologists in every field who are willing to work for the benefit of their profession, and they must band together because "in union there is strength." That is why AIPG was formed - to avoid the scattered, and sometimes futile, efforts of small groups, working against tremendous odds. How else can the influence of 20,000 geologists be felt in a population approaching 200,000,000? When we consider that there are approximately 800,000 engineers, for example, it is clear that our work is cut out for us. AIPG has already established liaison with many of the scientific societies for this purpose.

The rest of the population is not necessarily opposed to us, but they can, and do, create problems for us. Probably the vast majority have only a hazy idea of the meaning of geology and geologists - if they know that we exist at all. And this goes for a sizeable proportion of legislators and jurists, who sometimes have direct control over our lives and activities. It is quite obvious that there will be times when we will have to fight for our rights - and AIPG was created for that purpose, too.

AIPG will spend a considerable part of its efforts on the problem of public awareness, informing the rest of the population of what geology means to it - how it enters into the lives of all the people, and how geologists can help them, particularly in the way of preventing mistakes, misfortunes and even catastrophes. We plan to coordinate our efforts in this field with those of AGI (assuming that our application for membership in AGI will be approved).

One problem which causes trouble completely disproportionate to the number of individuals involved is that of unethical practices. The vast majority of geologists are decent, respectable individuals, but the few unethical ones give the entire profession a bad name. And, unfortunately, the general public is frequently unable to distinguish between the professional geologist and the individual, with no geological training, who misrepresents himself as being a geologist. I believe the best tools available to us in combating these related problems are publicity and education. In future issues, I hope to enlarge on this theme.

Another area in which AIPG can be of great service is in connection with regulatory legislation. At the national level, AIPG does not take a stand either for or against State registration of geologists. We have been most effective, so far, in killing proposed State legislation that would have been detrimental to the profession as a whole.

On the other hand, we have participated in the preparation of a model law that can be used where desired by the profession, and which incorporates the idea of reciprocity, as between States, in licensing geologists.

In my opinion, the importance of certification recently has been exaggerated out of all proportion to the other problems, confronting the profession, to which AIPG will address itself. Considering certification, as distinguished from State registration, AIPG gives each of its members, upon admission, a membership card stating that he (or she) is a Certified Professional Geologist.

AAPG has recently voted to certify those members who desire it, and who meet its qualifications, as Certified Petroleum Geologists. Despite rumors that have been circulating in some areas, there is no conflict between the sponsoring societies. The relationship between the two executive boards has been very friendly, and we have every reason to believe that there will be continued cooperation between the two organizations. In like manner, it is the intention of AIPG to cooperate with every other geological society in our efforts to achieve our stated purposes.

**California Section Established**

The California Section AIPG was established on October 17, 1964 at an organization meeting held in Los Angeles. At this meeting 34 members and applicants adopted a Constitution and By-laws subject to the approval of the AIPG Executive Committee and elected officers and other officials.

Officers elected were: Arthur O. Spaulding, President; Elmo W. Adams, Advisory Board Delegate; Siegfried Mussig, First Vice-President; John E. Kilkenny, Second Vice-President; and Bennie W. Troxel, Secretary-Treasurer.

District representatives elected at the founding meeting were: Paul A. Witherspoon, Bay Area; Vern C. Jones, Sacramento Valley; C. M. Carson, Coastal Area; Wesley G. Brue, San Joaquin Valley; Henry H. Neel, Los Angeles Basin; and Richard L. Threet, San Diego Area.

Graham B. Moody was chosen as Chairman of the Screening Committee. Other elected members of this important committee were Willard J. Classen and S. W. Totten from the Bay Area; Robert H. Paschall and Sargent M. Reynolds from the Sacramento Valley; Thomas L. Bailey and J oin F. Curran from the Coastal Area; Peter W. Gester and James C. Benzley from the San Joaquin Valley; and Franklin J. Weishaupl, H. W. Sullwold, Jr. and John H. Wiese from the Los Angeles Basin.
AIPG Professional Certification

The Executive Committee of AIPG has adopted the policy of encouraging the dignified use of the term "Certified Professional Geologist" by AIPG members.

Approval of membership in AIPG automatically confers upon the applicant a numbered certificate and the right to use the registered term "Certified Professional Geologist." In order to emphasize the importance of AIPG certification, and ultimately to render its absence conspicuous, members are encouraged to use the title "Certified Professional Geologist" in an unostentatious manner in signatures of professional correspondence, reports and documents, on letterheads, and in other circumstances where an expression of professional competence is appropriate without degrading the title.

Certification may be further evidenced by an AIPG-owned impression or rubber-stamp seal, available to individual members on an indefinite "lease" basis (By-laws, Article II, Section 5-C). Each seal gives the name and certificate number of the Certified Professional Geologist to whom it is issued.

Personalized impression seals may be obtained by request addressed to Institute headquarters at Golden, Colorado. Request should include applicant's certificate number and be accompanied by a check or money order for $7.50 payable to AIPG. From two to four weeks will probably be required to fill the order. Rubber-stamp seals are also available from Institute headquarters for $4.00 for use on documents where an impression seal may be undesirable, or for use on areas too distant from the edge of the document for the jaw-type impression seal.

RECOMMENDED READING


-- An authoritative account of the present status of the Mohole project, by the former chairman and chief scientist, respectively, of the AMSOC Committee.

To Sponsor, Or Not To Sponsor?

One of the most important functions of AIPG members is the exercise of the discretionary privilege of sponsoring applicants for admission to the Institute. The ultimate quality and character of AIPG will depend upon the care with which new members are selected, particularly at this time.

The By-laws of the Institute require of candidates "a sustained record of adherence to highest professional and ethical standards, attested by at least five Professional Geologists, having present knowledge of the applicant's qualifications, integrity and conduct, who, except for a period ending with the termination of the First Annual Meeting, shall themselves be members of the Institute."

The First Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 13 and 14, 1964, and thereafter only AIPG members will be qualified as Professional Geologists to serve as sponsors for new applicants. This means that in all probability each member will be called upon repeatedly to serve as a sponsor. Inevitably requests for sponsorship may originate with individuals who do not have "a sustained record of adherence to highest professional and ethical standards" and who are not qualified for admission. The prospective sponsor is then placed in a very human dilemma -- he must either decline the responsibility at the risk of some animosity from the individual affected, or he must compromise his own standards and the standards of AIPG by offering a lukewarm endorsement as an accommodation and a matter of personal expediency. This will come up in spite of our best efforts to evade such awkward situations.

Perhaps the simplest solution is to face this issue squarely, for there can be really only one acceptable answer if AIPG is to be more than a purely social organization. Unqualified applicants cannot be sponsored as qualified, and unethical past practices cannot be condoned as meeting "highest" standards. The buck cannot be passed to another member, nor to the Screening Board; it stops with each of us where sponsorship is concerned.

Just as important as sponsoring is not sponsoring, and the latter is a great deal more difficult. But regardless of difficulty, there are cases where sponsorship must be declined, with tact and diplomacy if possible, but declined nevertheless. In the unfortunate event that resentment is aroused, we may perhaps be able to console ourselves with the thought that the loss if any is really not an insuperable one.

Frank B. Conselman

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Last July President Van Couvering formed a committee "to keep the public and the geological profession aware of what is going on in matters related to geology, and more particularly, reflecting the questions of ethics, financial responsibility, and the public welfare."

Under the Chairmanship of W. A. Newton, Denver, the committee members include Robert M. Becker, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Gordon L. Bell, Bismarck, North Dakota; Robert R. Berg, Denver, Colorado; Richard W. Harding, State College, Pennsylvania; J. Q. Tompkins, Salt Lake City, Utah; and Ernest E. Wahlstrom, Boulder, Colorado.

This committee will have its first get-together at the AIPG Annual Meeting in November. Its activity to date has been varied, including (1) a letter to the editor of API's publication, Petroleum Today, protesting omission of "Exploration" in the article entitled "In Search of a Symbol"; (2) a letter to the Oil and Gas Journal (reprinted in part in the Journal's "They Say" column on August 24, 1964) noting that the AAPG is voting on certification of the "petroleum" geologist, not "professional" geologist as reported in the O&GJ July 20 article, and calling attention to the fact that the term "Certified Professional Geologist" is pre-empted by the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG), a national geological organization whose members represent all categories of geology and whose functions are limited strictly to (continued page 6)
PROGRAM FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF AIPG
NOVEMBER 13-14, 1964
DENVER HILTON HOTEL, DENVER, COLORADO

AIPG BUSINESS SESSION
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1964
SILVER ROOM, DENVER HILTON HOTEL

PRESIDING: Martin Van Couvering, President
GREETINGS: W. A. Newton, General Chairman
THE STATE OF THE INSTITUTION: Martin Van Couvering, President
FINANCIAL REPORT: Thomas R. Beveridge, Treasurer
MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Allen C. Tester, Vice-President

RECESS

EDITOR’S REPORT: Frank B. Conselman, Editor
PROPOSED MODEL LAW, PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION:
Warren Beebe, Chairman, Legislative Coordinating Council

LUNCHEON - Gold and Century Rooms

REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Ben H. Parker, Past President
REPORT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE:
W. A. Newton, Chairman
RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR MODIFICATION OF BY-LAWS: Allen C. Tester

RECESS

MEMBER’S FORUM ON INSTITUTE POLICY AND ACTIVITIES: Frank B. Conselman, Editor - Leader

FRIDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 13, 1964
SOCIAL HOUR - ASSEMBLY I
DINNER - JUNIOR BALLROOM

PRESIDING: Orlo E. Childs, President, Colorado School of Mines
"Federal Role in Development of United States Mineral Resources"

"A miner, since we think he ought to be a good and serious man, should not make use of an enchanted twig, for if he is prudent and skilled in the natural signs, he understands that a forked stick is of no use to him." ... Agricola

"If he does really think that there is no distinction between virtue and vice, why, Sir, when he leaves our houses let us count our spoons." ... Samuel Johnson

GENERAL SESSION
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1964
ASSEMBLY III

PRESIDING: Ben H. Parker

MORNING PROGRAM THEME
FUTURE DIRECTION OF GROWTH AND THE GEOLOGIC MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS IN:
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
James Donald Weir, Chief Geologist, Standard Oil Company of California, San Francisco
METALS
James O. Harder, Manager of Operations, Homestake Mining Co., Lead, S. Dakota

RECESS

ENGINEERING GEOLOGY
Richard H. Barry, Engineering Geologist, Alexandria, Virginia
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
William Thurston, Staff Geologist, Office of the Director, U. S. G. S., Washington, D.C.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS
LUNCHEON - Denver and Spruce Rooms

AFTERNOON PROGRAM THEME
INTER-PROFESSIONAL ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT AND HISTORY OF STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
PRESIDING: W. W. Mallory

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Leo E. Brown, Asst. to the Executive Vice-President, AMA, Chicago, Illinois

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
Richard M. Schmidt, Jr., Past President, Denver Bar Association, Denver

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
R. K. Ayers, Executive Secretary, Colorado Chapter, AIA, Denver

COLORADO STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
Lawrence M. Robertson, Chairman, Denver

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

"The geologist may, if he so desire, supplement his historical account... with a consideration of the modern times of discovery and exploitation, and... how they have led to the development of great business undertakings; and he is perfectly welcome thus to overrun the fields of geography, history, economics, metallurgy, and so on." ... William Morris Davis

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the "professional" problems of geologists and the public; and
(6) a letter to members of the State Boards and the National
Council of State Boards of Engineering Examiners on the sub-
ject of registration of geologists.

The last project was the most ambitious, with 108 copies of
the letter going to members of the NCSBEE in all 50 States,
the Canal Zone and Puerto Rico. In addition, almost 200
copies of this correspondence have been distributed to presi-
dents of the various geological societies, the National Legis-
lative Coordinating Council members, AIPG Coordinators,
etc.

In late July it came to our attention that the NCSBEE
had asked the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical
and Petroleum Engineers to join in setting up standards for
the registration of professional geologists. It is believed that
this action was prompted by a letter addressed to members of
the NCSBEE, dated April 7, 1964, by Dr. J. C. Sproule
(then President of the AAPG) which left the impression that
geologists in general wish to be registered.

Our AIPG letter to the NCSBEE members requested that
any action on setting up standards for the registration of geol-
obists be tabled until such time as a Model Law, now in pre-
paration by geologists, is offered for consideration by geol-
obists in those states desiring registration of geologists.

Chairman Newton has received many favorable replies
from NCSBEE members across the nation, and it appears that
no formal action by engineers will be taken on this matter
until the geologists present their own standards for registra-
tion.

Wm. A. Newton

The Plight Of The Earth Scientist

The unfortunate position in which many qualified geolo-
gists and geophysicists have found themselves during the pres-
ent exploration depression apparently has now attracted the
attention of figures outside of the profession and outside of
the mineral industries.

U. S. Senator Peter H. Dominick of Colorado has re-
cently inquired of Executive Committee member William A. New-
ton, Chairman of AIPG's Public Information Committee, with
respect to a specific case of which he had knowledge. The
geologist involved represented an individual of unquestioned
ability and character, who had been reduced to a hardship
situation by current economic conditions.

In a reply to Senator Dominick dated September 2, 1964,
Mr. Newton wrote as follows:

"The plight of many earth scientists is of deep concern
to our profession and should be of concern to our Government.
Not only are earth scientists leaving the profession, but col-
lege majors in earth science have dropped to an alarming
degree.

"These trained and educated men are walking the streets
in search for work while our Government plans a billion-
dollar anti-poverty program concentrated in an area where
from personal experience I know many of the recipients-to-
be don't want to work and have scarcely experienced same
in their lifetime.

"In searching for the root of the problem which confronts
the geologic profession, and especially the oil industry which
provides a livelihood for a great number of geologists, I con-
clude that the basic trouble is that the Independents are be-
ing squeezed out of existence. The result is that domestic
employment is reduced, exploration and exploitation are
curtailed, and discoveries and additions to reserves are slowed.
If we are to believe the predictions for future energy demands
in this country, just the opposite trend should be taking place
for the future welfare and safety of our nation.

"Why are the Independents being squeezed out of busi-
ness? Fundamentally, I believe the cause is excessive im-
portation of foreign oil. The result is that profits on domes-
tic crude are reduced to such a low factor that the incentive
to reinvest in exploration for new supplies is curtailed; 'vol-
ume' becomes the sole criterion of success and only the
major producers, refiners and marketers can survive under the
economic impact of our foreign oil import program. Many
strong Independents in the Rocky Mountain area have gone
out of business during the past ten years via the merger and
sale routes, and others will follow as long as excessive oil
imports affect the marketing practices of the industry as they
do presently do.

"Another governmental factor which strongly affects the
health of our petroleum industry is the regulatory attitude of
the Federal Power Commission toward gas producers and
transmission companies. The 'climate' is often anything but
encouraging (El Paso Natural Gas Company abandoned their
successful exploration department) and the excessive cost of
doing business with and through this Commission is sometimes
unbelievable.

"The regulatory powers of the Federal Government on oil
imports and through the FPC may seem a far cry from the
problem, but I believe not. On the contrary, I believe a
more moderate and realistic regulatory climate is the root of
the problem which can strengthen the important oil and gas
industry, its diversified and numerically important companies
and manpower reservoir. Unless steps are taken in this direc-
tion we can expect a continuous erosion of competition and
trained scientific personnel in this country. Geared as we are
to the use of immense quantities of energy from natural
resources, such a dependence on foreign supplies in time of
war could be disastrous.

"It is my hope that an opportunity will arise for you to
influence a course of action in governmental affairs which
will truly help a lingering and worsening plight of many
good, trained men such as you wrote to me about."

"Men love to wonder and that: is the seed of our
science," ... Emerson

"There is land of such a nature that if you sow, it does
not yield crops, but if you dig, it nourishes many more than
if it bore fruit." ... Xenophon
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir: October 9, 1964

The query, "What can AIPG do for the Geologist?" is often heard. The benefits that could be listed for the burgeoning facet of geological professionalism are numerous but of immediate concern is the accomplishment of a handful of dedicated officers and members in less than a year's time. This record includes three important items: relief from restrictive legislation in California and Louisiana and elimination of a misunderstanding regarding the registration of geologists through AIME. Credit for the first two items should go chiefly to President Van Couvering, Ben Parker and Gordon Atwater and for the last chiefly to Bud Rue, William Newton and Mike Halbouty.

Such an impressive record by so few men in so short a time augurs well for the benefits which may accrue from concerted action by a strong Institute.

Very truly yours,
Howard E. Rothrock
Coleman, Texas

Dear Sir:

I should like to see AIPG undertake, among other things, the following:

1. To combat the growing tendency in state legislatures toward compulsory wildcat-type legal registration as engineers in order to practice as geologists.
2. To substitute, instead, where state legislatures demand regulation, laws drawn up by geologists and standardized among all 50 states as an aid to nation-wide reciprocity.
3. Protection of the public and geologists themselves from unethical practices by other geologists or by employers.
4. Recognition of geology as a profession by the courts and hence recognition of geologists as qualified expert witnesses in their field.

These objectives, and others as the need for them may arise, seem worthwhile to me.

Very truly yours,
W. W. Mallory
Denver, Colorado

PROFESSIONAL OPINION

"I have always listed myself as a Professional Geologist. Geology is my profession and I have practiced my profession successfully, and for the good of my fellow men. I feel that we geologists owe a service of safety where our work includes foundations for the support of any human endeavor, a building, bridge, highway, waterway, or any structure.

"It seems natural that we have professional standing recorded, in addition to academic degrees, membership in our scientific societies, and experience. We have already exposed ourselves, it seems to me, to the alert eye of the registered attorney, who may ask, are you a registered engineer, --- well then are you a registered or certified geologist?

"Again I am reminded that we owe a service as members of a profession. A profession that is called on for specialized opinions and help, to improve man's place on earth. We are asked to give method, purpose and meaning to many aspects of human endeavor and the future of man. In court we owe a service by drawing a conclusion, based on facts known through education, experience and personal observation. On this legal basis we are experts and our testimony is indispensable to an untrained jury to aid them in their function as the trier of the fact.

"Professional recognition by certification should, I believe, be an aspiration of geologists.

"I have studied the Constitution and By-laws of AIPG and consider the organization a true high standard and guide for the geological profession. With the actual existence of the organization, I will try to have the geological profession recognized by State Legislators in the North Dakota Legislative Session this winter. This could be the first step in achieving favorable legislation. If you have any suggestions for presentation please send them and I will do my best to gain recognition for The American Institute of Professional Geologists.

"Our engineers (North Dakota State Highway Department) are proud of their Certificates of Registration and have them framed on the wall by their desks. When they are registered they receive a salary increase of $25 a month. This is a good incentive and registration is not limited to college graduates, provided the applicant qualifies by experience and examination. These are details commonly known and I say them with the hope that we can upgrade our image and elevate our status as geologists among the other professions. Our requirements and standards are certainly strong and among the highest."

Gordon L. Bell

"One question frequently raised in connection with AIPG membership has to do with letters from sponsors and references. We have had suggestions that we use printed questionnaires; that we decrease the number of sponsoring letters required; and that we waive this requirement for prominent geologists. This matter has been given serious study by the Executive Committee, but after due consideration, we felt that the procedure should not be changed.

"Careful screening of our applicants is essential if we are to achieve our stated purposes. Use of questionnaires with perfunctory questions requiring only brief answers would certainly make it easier for sponsors, screening board members, and the Executive Committee. However, this would not provide us with the information necessary for a critical evaluation of an applicant's qualifications.

"Those of us who have read the letters sponsoring our applicants have found them very illuminating, largely because the author, in each case, had to stop and think, which brought the applicant's characteristics into sharper focus in the sponsor's mind. We also find that individual sponsors are apt to be impressed by different aspects of the same applicant."
Professional Opinion (continued from page 7)

we have been commended by numerous sponsors on the fact that we are being so meticulous in our procedure.

"It has also been suggested that AIPG obtain the sponsoring letters rather than having the applicant ask for them. I believe it is obvious that we must follow the same procedure for all applicants; in the case of applicants who are not known personally to the Executive Committee, we would have no way of knowing who would be in a position to attest to their professional and ethical qualifications unless the applicant submitted the names to us. Since these letters have to be mailed direct to the Executive Committee by the sponsor, not the applicant, we feel that we get as frank a statement as if we wrote the sponsor requesting the statement. Also, we are not desirous of acquiring members whose status in the profession is such that they would have difficulty getting commendatory letters from five other members of the profession that are generally respected.

"The Executive Committee members have voluntarily elected to go through the same screening procedure as every other applicant.

"Many distinguished geologists have already applied for membership without raising any objection to the sponsorship requirement. While it is obvious to those of us in the profession that a geologist of this calibre would have no difficulty passing the screening test, if AIPG is to enhance the confidence of the public in the geological profession, it cannot discriminate in favor of any applicant, no matter how distinguished he may be.

"We believe that AIPG, and what it represents to the geological profession, is so important that it is worth the extra effort. We want our members to be able to be proud of belonging to a respected organization, and this cannot be accomplished by casual means."

Martin Van Couvering

FRANK C. FOLEY (CPG #131) is the new president of the American Association of State Geologists, succeeding EARL F. COOK (CPG #113). IAN CAMPBELL (CPG #19) is the Secretary-Treasurer, and ROBERT O. VERNON (CPG #164) is Editor.

THOMAS C. CLEMENTS (CPG #186) has opened a consulting office in Los Angeles. He recently retired as Chairman of the Geology Department at USC.

GEORGE C. HARDIN, JR. (CPG #77) has moved from Houston, Texas to Oklahoma City.

ROBERT J. WEIMER (CPG #88) has been named head of the Department of Geological Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines. He recently completed a Distinguished Lecture tour for AAPG.

HOWELL J. McGARR (CPG #155) has moved from San Angelo, Texas to Redding, California.

THEODORE A. DeBROSE (CPG #82) is serving as President of the Ohio Geological Society.

WILLIAM C. HAYES (CPG #125) has been appointed State Geologist for Missouri. He replaces THOMAS R. BEVERIDGE (CPG #3), who resigned to accept a position of Professor of Engineering Geology at the University of Missouri at Rolla.

ORLO CHILDs (CPG #146) is a candidate for the presidency of AAPG, an office currently held by GROVER E. MURRAY (CPG #94).

VITO A. GOTAUTUS (CPG #94) has opened a consulting office in the Oil Center, Lafayette, Louisiana.

ELMO W. ADAMS (CPG #65) is the new president of the Northern California Geological Society, succeeding L. KENNETH WILSON (CPG #122).

MICHEL T. HALBOUITY (CPG #12) has been elected a vice-president of the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association.