



President's Message

By Monroe T. Morgan, Dr. P.H.

UNIFICATION?

I remember hearing a story as a child about "the two railroads." The story went something like this. One time there were two different railroad companies that built separate railroads side-by-side for many, many miles. The two railroads served a city. Hence the railroads hauled food, clothing, medicines, fuel, and other necessities to the people in the city they were serving as well as serving other transportation needs. They hauled from the city the products that were produced by the people in the city.

Both railroads wanted to offer their services at as low a rate as possible. Each desired to fulfill its goal of serving the city and make the people as happy, healthy and prosperous as possible. Even though railroad services were definitely needed by the city, limited in size and in number of exports, the two railroads were not able to provide the services as inexpensively as they had wished. They tried to compete by outdoing the other railroad but the operational expenses for the two railroads were such that they could not reduce the amounts and offer services less expensively. Later the city started asking for more frequent passenger train runs, new up-to-date pullman, and more and better services. Because they were operating on a "shoestring budget," neither railroad was able to provide the services. The city started requesting more services and the officers of the railroads became more frustrated because they were not able to provide the services.

Later the leaders representing the two railroads got together as an endeavor to solve the problem and better serve the city. They sat and discussed, analyzed, planned, evaluated, and reassessed, and finally came to the conclusion that a merger would best serve all concerned. Hence, the two railroads merged into one large, strong, efficient railroad.

As a result of the merger, the people were able to get better, cleaner, modern trains and more frequent schedules of the passenger trains. The fruits and vegetables that were brought in were fresher because they were delivered more frequently. The railroad company started noticing profits and the employees were better paid, happier, and took more pride in their work. In summary, after the merger, the problems that had been encountered over the many years were no longer existent. All people concerned realized that the one railroad was more efficient and economically feasible than were the two.

This story reminds me of our environmental health profession. For sanitarians and environmentalists, environmental health technicians, educators, administrators and researchers, there are two national organizations, each endeavoring to do potentially the same thing — serve the profession and to assist environmentalists and sanitarians in their work, and consequently improve the health of the nation.

Neither organization has the budget, facilities, staff and resources that are desired. However, if the two organizations should unify, it appears that the membership would more likely have the resources necessary to provide the services that are needed by the profession. Therefore, the profession, environment, related professions, and the present and future generations would receive the benefits of and be thankful for the unification.

I had the privilege of attending the annual conference of the International Association of Milk, Food, and Environmental Sanitarians, Inc., in St. Petersburg, Fla., August 12-13, 1974. After assessing the situation, I realize that the National Environmental Health Association has expertise the International Association does not have, and I realize

that the International Association has expertise that the National Environmental Health Association does not have. It is my sincere feeling that the profession would be better represented if there could be one strong organization representing the sanitarian and environmentalist.

While attending the International Association of Milk, Food, and Environmental Sanitarians meeting, I had the privilege of speaking with H. L. "Red" Thomasson and President and Executive Secretary Earl O. Wright, Ames, Iowa. After talking with these two gentlemen, I am convinced that (in order that we may better serve mankind) efforts should be made to unify into one large organization.

It appears that the best method would be to have a joint annual educational conference. I propose that a joint conference be held in California in 1977. After the two organizations have had a joint meeting, both organizations will better know if they wish to unify. In the meantime, efforts should be made to discuss, outline, and document necessary matters and materials which would be necessitated as a result of the unification. Therefore, I am recommending a joint meeting of the NEHA and IAMFES Executive Committees. Hopefully, the joint meeting of the Executive Committees can be held next spring.

As your president, I encourage you to give this matter much attention, thought, research, and discussion, after which you are requested to act as your conscience so dictates.

While in the beautiful, clean, and friendly city of St. Petersburg, Florida, I had the privilege of visiting the Pinellas County Health Department. Mr. A. H. Crenshaw gave me a tour of the very modern impressive health department facilities. I was very much impressed with the environmental programs under the supervision of Mr. Crenshaw, director of Environmental Health in Pinellas County. I am, as president of NEHA, looking forward to speaking to the large and strong Florida Environmental Health Association next May.

The theme of the next annual educational conference will be "Environmental Health and Preventive Medicine, or Curative Medicine?!!!" It appears that this nation has departed from what has made it strong — environmental health and preventive medicine. IT IS HIGH TIME THAT THIS COUNTRY RETURN TO PREVENTION IN

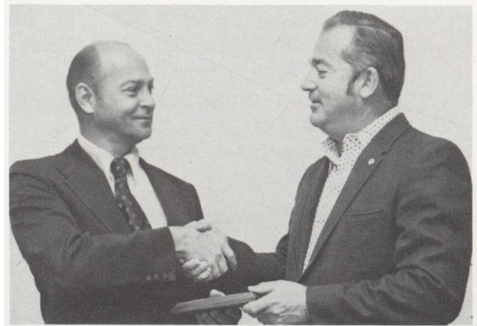
ITS THOUGHTS, PROGRAMS, LEGISLATION AND FUNDING! In other words, which do we want, people that are healthy because we have protected their health through environmental health practice and preventive medicine, or a population that is sick but well able to pay the bills because we have a national health insurance?

Nevada Recognizes Ueckert

The Nevada Environmental Health Association recognized Dr. V. H. Ueckert, deputy health officer for environmental health, Clark County District Health Department, for his outstanding contributions to the association and the public. Presentation was at the Association's spring meeting at Tonopah. Speakers included Chuck Costs of the USEPA, Dan Brozowski, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and Paul Taloff, representing the National Environmental Health Association. Don Anderson, executive chef at the Sahara Hotel, Las Vegas, received an honorary membership.



Pickering Reynolds, Nevada Association president, left, makes award presentation to Dr. V.H. Ueckert.



Don Anderson, Sahara executive chef, right, accepts honorary membership from Nevada president, Pickering Reynolds.