

FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT, RICHARD A. SLOSS—

Two years ago when Gordon Meade became the Federation's President he wrote: "—I sense a distressful feeling among some members that the Federation has come to rest on center, that it is not moving forward, that it does not meet its members' needs—in short that it needs revitalizing." Two years ago I shared those sentiments. Since then I have watched and been privileged to participate in a revitalization of our organization due in large part to Gordon's enthusiastic dedication and his inexhaustible supply of energy. The Federation is once again moving forward, new activities and publications have been instituted and are on the planning boards, more people are becoming actively involved in directing and implementing our programs, and there seems to me to be a renewed confidence and enthusiasm among our membership. To Gordon, we all owe our deep appreciation and gratitude.

Our thanks must also be extended to Joe Taylor, who for many years labored valiantly and productively as Editor of *The Kingbird*. Despite many responsibilities and demands for his numerous talents and expertise by a host of organizations he devoted long hours to an often unrewarding task and gave unselfishly of himself to the Federation.

Appreciation is also due to Alice Jones, our retiring Recording Secretary, without whom none of the proceedings of the past two years would have become part of the archives.

Generally, the newly elected officers of the Federation have assumed their active responsibilities immediately after the first of the year. However, due to prior commitments, Gordon Meade will be unable to devote the necessary attention to the duties of president in the coming months and accordingly, he has requested that I assume office as of the Annual Meeting. Since the bylaws do not express themselves with respect to when the new administration assumes office I shall recommend to the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee that terms of office coincide with the Annual Meeting in order to avoid several months of a "lame duck" administration. Additionally, I hope that the Federation will approve a policy of having all our Annual Meetings in the fall of the year so that terms of office and committee assignments will maintain a regular continuity.

I believe that the formation of the Executive Committee has been the most significant improvement in our organizational structure since I have become actively associated with the Federation. Formerly, the few dedicated people comprising the Board of Directors and the heads of the various committees struggled valiantly to overcome what to me has always been one of the greatest handicaps that confronted the Federation—the enormous difficulties of liaison between the officers, committee chairmen and 35 to 40 member clubs, to say nothing of the individual membership. A great deal of the activities of our Federation depend

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