

NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE
AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

WILLIAM A. HAGAN
DEAN

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PRESIDENT

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY AND BACTERIOLOGY

February 21, 1957

Dr. L. C. Grumbles
Room 101
Veterinary Medicine Building
Texas A and M College
College Station, Texas

Dear Dr. Grumbles:

This will acknowledge receipt of a copy of your letter to Dr. Van Roekel of February 7th and a copy of his reply to you of February 15th. Dr. Van Roekel has raised some very basic questions which would have to be decided before an organizational meeting is specifically called for. My attitude toward the entire problem is this: I would be in favor of any organization that would encourage, promote, and further the interests of poultry disease control and research in not only this country but in the world. This should not be done at the expense of existing organizations. One reservation might be made to the last statement, in that it is possible that a better job might be done by a new organization than an existing one.

I take a dim view of these small, splinter groups which have by restrictive membership clauses set themselves up as exclusive, tight, little unions. I have heard some comments from poultry pathologists which indicate that they would like to see a poultry pathologists' association formed that would be limited to veterinarians only. I would definitely be against such a proposition. I am not much concerned about the degree or letters that come after a man's name. I am much more concerned with the quality of work that he produces. If a poultryman that never went beyond grade school has demonstrated the ability to make significant contributions to our field, he is entitled to the same recognition and consideration as a man with four degrees after his name. When we think of men like Tyzzer, Bushnell, Rettger, to name just a few, who have made outstanding contributions to the field of poultry disease research and consider that they were not veterinarians and would be kept out of an organization that we might form which would restrict membership to veterinarians, it would make such an organization look pretty silly. I am making a special point of this because the trend has been to make specialty groups restrictive whereas, in my opinion, the best way to further our aims is to make a group

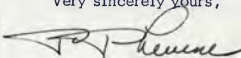
Dr. L. C. Grumbles

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inclusive.

I see no harm in calling an informal meeting for general discussion purposes to feel out the opinions of men in our group. Until the specific nature of a national organization is spelled out, however, I would not want to make any advance commitments.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "P. P. Levine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

P. P. Levine

PPL:eh

cc:Dr. Van Roekel