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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ACADEMY COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

The Academy year began with a productive start. The response to my request for committee participation was enthusiastic. All respondents were assigned to a committee of their choice. The committees have begun their tasks.

In addition to the committees, two task forces have been named. The Centers Task Force is chaired by Richard Vangermeersch and is to evaluate options, risks, opportunities, and costs of operating the Academy-sponsored Centers now and in the future. The Strategic Organizational Task Force, chaired by Gary Previts, is to begin a study involving changing principal organizational functions of the Academy.

Committees and task force chairs are to prepare a preliminary report for the April 24 meeting of the Trustees, Officers, and Key members in Atlanta. A complete list of committees and charges may be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

ACADEMY MEETINGS

The Trustees, Officers, and Key Members have established that the agenda for the Academy meetings this year should be as follows: Spring Meeting - strategic planning; August Meeting - urgent business; and the Fall Meeting - committee reports. The date and location of the Spring Meeting was chosen to coincide with the Southeast Regional Meeting of the AAA. The Fall Meeting will be held at the conclusion of the Conference on Biographical Research in Accounting to be held at the University of Mississippi on December 3-4, 1993. A call for papers may be found in this newsletter.

NATIONAL ARCHIVE FOR EDP AUDITING

Another very exciting event in the life of the Academy occurred at the beginning of 1993. A doctoral student at the University of Mississippi, Tommie Singleton, has been involved in an extensive research project locating early materials written about EDP auditing. He has interviewed the pioneers in the field and asked them to donate their materials to a National Archive for EDP Auditing to be housed at the University of Mississippi and sponsored by the Academy of Accounting Historians. Several donors have made contributions of materials. The Academy financed a trip and the rental of a truck to collect materials from Harold Weiss. Many of the documents are rare and include papers from the Big Eight firms (1950s through



1980s). Some of the books are classics. Other donations have come from Don Adams (AICPA), Stan Halper (Coopers & Lybrand), and Robert Parker (historian for EDPAA). Tommie is entering the contents of the collection into a computerized data base. Additional space has been requested in the planned new School of Accountancy building at the University of Mississippi to house this collection.

MAJOR ADDITION TO THE VIDEOTAPE LIBRARY

The Videotape Library housed at The University of Mississippi contained approximately 50 tapes which featured interviews with major accountants. These tapes are loaned out all over the world. Recently, Gerald Searfoss of Deloitte & Touche arranged to have 127 videotapes of the Dingell Commission hearings donated to the Library. Dale Flesher is the director of the Videotape Library.

CONFERENCE ON BIOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH IN ACCOUNTING

The highlight of the Academy year will be the Conference on Biographical Research in Accounting held at the University of Mississippi on December 3-4, 1993. The purpose of this conference is to focus on the importance of studying and assessing the influence of individuals on the development of accounting thought and practice. Please refer to the call for papers in this edition of the newsletter. The major airlines serve the Memphis International Airport which is slightly over an hour away from Oxford. Transportation will be available on campus at the Alumni Hotel. More details regarding arrangements will follow. All Academy members are encouraged to submit papers and attend the Conference.

Tonya Kay Flesher