

Personal Involvement: The Impact of Individual Effort

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The Society's theme for 1970-71 was "To Strive for Excellence." This did not imply a lack of excellence in the past but rather a continuing goal for ourselves in the future. Each working day, every ASHRAE member utilizes some measure of his intellect and experience in performing the basic task of earning his livelihood. The sum total of this intellect and experience cannot be measured quantitatively, but is certainly impressive. To stimulate increasing utilization of this excellence for the benefit of mankind, I have chosen "Personal Involvement" as the theme of my administration for 1971-72.

Suppose each of our members personally involves himself in local civic activities for three hours every week. Over a year, this would constitute nearly four million manhours. Moreover, ASHRAE members have just the talents needed to assist in the solution of some of the major problems of our nation!

Take pollution, for example. We have problems of air pollution, water pollution, thermal pollution, and noise pollution, among others. But air, water, heat and noise are just the things ASHRAE members "cut their teeth on." ASHRAE, through its members and programs, is a prime factor in advancing these and other areas of technology. We simply cannot stand on the side-lines of the pollution problem. We have so much talent that it is our responsibility, indeed our duty as professionals, to lend our aid.

It is not easy. Horrendous pressures are brought to bear by activist groups that clamor for action now and technical and economic analyses later. Time and time again we learn of hearings in which the information pre-

sented is totally in favor of grandiose ideas for pollution control, but with no mention of technological capabilities or economics. No wonder many of the resulting standards and laws are unworkable.

How then can each of us contribute? We must get personally involved in our own local areas where many pollution standards are set. We must seek out hearings and meetings, attend, and be seen and heard. Through continual attendance and personal involvement, our professional contribution will soon be evident to all.

In many areas of the country, involvement can be a chapter activity. There are 113 local ASHRAE chapters in the United States and Canada, situated so that a large portion of the population lives and works within their boundaries. One or more chapter members could be designated as official representatives and the pollution control groups so informed. In some instances, the needs of the community and the talents within the chapter will warrant establishing a formal committee. Its charge would be to work with local public officials, ecologists and industry representatives to develop new or improved pollution standards that are technically sound and economically feasible. Its mission would be to provide information, insofar as possible in layman's terms, so that decisions and standards set are based on facts, not opinions.

Pollution control is but one of many areas in which I am urging increased personal involvement. ASHRAE members can contribute substantially in helping to revise building codes to modern standards, as well as assisting in developing noise control regulations for residential air-conditioning systems.

And what about getting involved in the problems of our cities, with the increasing congestion and accelerating

obsolescence of buildings? As we ASHRAE members are environmental specialists, urban planning is a "natural" for us. Not only must the problems of providing desired indoor environments be considered, but also we must deal with the external noise and waste heat problems caused by closely packed, densely populated, high-rise buildings. Increased emphasis on energy conservation devices and systems is important in order to limit the sheer amount of heat rejected to the outdoors. An auxiliary benefit of energy conservation is reduced pollution at the power generating facility. Where do these areas of technology reside except in ASHRAE members? The impact of individual effort in this one area can be a significant contribution to the welfare of mankind.

As professionals and members of ASHRAE, we also have a responsibility to increase our personal involvement in our Society, which has as its objective "... to benefit the general public." Members, through enthusiastic participation in the activities of their chapters, will help chapters grow stronger and more viable. Knowledge shared at chapter, regional and Society meetings will directly benefit many members. As each individual's element of expertise is added to the Society's pool of knowledge, our literature becomes more accurate and comprehensive. The end result is improved design—a direct benefit to the general public.

In attending chapter, regional and Society meetings, I have noted some personal involvement in many areas such as I have cited. However, we have hardly scratched the surface. I ask that we continue to stimulate each other this next year to increase our personal involvement. Our involvement will directly contribute to the benefit of mankind and will give us a warm sense of personal satisfaction.

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