



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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A WORTHY CAUSE

The 1982-83 appeal for Minority Recruiting Project money is in full swing, says William E. Watson of our Subcommittee. As usual, appeals are made to two groups: (i) companies that employ actuaries, and (ii) individuals such as you and me.

In group (i), 81 organizations have responded. That total at the close of last year's appeal was 95, so there are several out there who may find this reminder useful.

It has always surprised us how few individual actuaries in past years have thought it worthwhile to include Minority Recruiting in their personal contributions budgets. The total number last year was only 18, and even that was a record. Surely it wouldn't be out of order to expect at least 100 Society members to participate to the tune of, say, \$10 or \$20 each, would it?

Those who care to do something about this, please send your check, payable to "SOA/CAS Minority Recruiting Program", to the Society office in Chicago. It's tax-deductible in the U.S.A.

Our good Subcommittee reports that it will soon publish a booklet, companion to the recently rewritten "The Actuarial Profession", expected to aid recruiting efforts among minority students.

E.J.M.

MAIL ALERT

You should have received the *Record*, Vol. 8, No. 3 covering the Colorado Springs meeting. If not, tell the Society office in Chicago.

FELLOWS' VIEWS ON ELECTION MATTERS

by Julius Vogel, Chairman,
Committee On Elections

Early in 1982 our Committee sought the views of a random sample of 1,158 Fellows on the Society's election process. 776 (67%) of these questionnaires came in; thus we got answers from one-sixth of all our Fellows to a series of questions that were expressed in "agree-disagree" form.

Some things we are doing right. 69% of the respondents found our first ballot "reference list" helpful; only 8% disagreed. Similarly, 80% agreed that the candidates are well qualified (1% disagreeing). Also reassuring—82% were generally satisfied with the way the Society is run; 10% were dissatisfied.

Yet, there is room for improvement. The biggest lesson we learned is this: 81% told us they don't know enough about most of the candidates to be able to choose among them, while only 16% said they do. The Society is no longer—for most FSA's never has been—an organization whose members know each other, or at least have pretty good knowledge of those prominent enough to appear on the ballot; hence the suggestion that candidates be encouraged to come forward with platforms on current Society issues was endorsed by 58% of respondents, 31% disagreeing.

Our questionnaire also brought up some constitutional matters. 27% of respondents felt that Associates should be allowed to vote, 66%, however, disagreeing. The response to the suggestion that Associates be allowed to run for office was similar. Slightly over half the respondents agreed (and about 35% disagreed) that there ought to be a constitutional limitation on how many times an individual may serve as Vice Presi-

(Continued on page 8)

THREE STRIKES ON PERCY H. EVANS

by Mary G. Frankel

Percy H. Evans (1873-1964) entered Northwestern Mutual's Actuarial Department as a 15-year old clerk, in the same year that the Actuarial Society of America came into being, was to become our Vice-President and Actuary, was to be elected President of the American Institute of Actuaries, but despite three attempts was never to be a Fellow of the Actuarial Society. Here's the story.

Strike One (1899): The Society, which had just then introduced its examination system, refused Evans permission to take its exams on the grounds that membership was restricted to those engaged in actuarial work as a primary occupation. Evans was then an agent in San Francisco, having been sent there by Actuary Charles A. Loveland so that someone in the Actuarial Department would have an understanding of the field; this made him ineligible even though he had to his credit two years of mathematics at University of Michigan sandwiched within some five years in full-time actuarial work.

By 1916 Evans, long since back in the Home Office and Actuary of the company, was ready to take the first step. The Society had just amended its Constitution so that a practicing actuary of sufficient stature could be elected an Associate by majority vote of its Council; Percy H. Evans was so admitted.

Strike Two (1920): To become a Fellow other than by examination, one had to establish one's credentials as an actuary, which Evans did by writing ten papers for the *Transactions* in just four years; to get unanimous vote of the Council, which he did; and to be voted in at a Society meeting with not more than nine negative votes by the Fellows

(Continued on page 8)