

May 11, 1981

Robert W. Hanson
Executive Director
Iowa Academy of Sciences
Univ. of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614

Dear Mr. Hanson,

Your complaints that our scheduling conflicted with IAS are quite interesting. May I remind you that last fall you explicitly requested that we not meet jointly with the Math Section of IAS. Furthermore, you indicated that you did not want to incur expenses in our behalf. A view that we certainly agree with. Therefore I found it surprising to learn on April 24 that you advertised the meeting as joint with MAA. We had no reason to believe that your plans (you might have sent me a copy in February) were completed or that you wished to bring our program. It seems to me that cooperation is a two way affair, but you seem to use the word to describe unilateral actions on your part which we are to obey.

In fact, we did post a program near your registration desk, we welcomed IAS members to our talks (at least 10 attended some or all), and we had talks which were of interest to scientists in other areas.

I'm sorry that you had to close your letter with an insulting potshot at our profession. Most of us in our daily lives indicate an interest in scientific affairs. For my own case, this past year, I have discussed problems, taken time to learn something about the other's area, and contributed to solutions of their problems with no less than five people in other disciplines. My case is not uncommon. Our program at Coe had at least six papers illustrating this. For you to equate interest in the scientific community with attendance at IAS functions is unfair (and a little more than arrogant), excluding, for example, most of the leading chemists in Iowa.

Sincerely,

A. M. Fink

AMF/bf