

December 20, 1938

Mr. A. I. Levorsen, Chairman
Research Committee, A. A. P. G.
221 Woodward Blvd.
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Levorsen:

I am in receipt of your postal card questionnaire concerning geological research.

I understand from the discussion at the El Paso meeting that the results of your questionnaire are intended to be somewhat of a guide for the National Research Council, or similar bodies which encourage geologic research. It has always been my belief that the main research of geology is field work. The field work may, of course, be conducted from different points of view, structural, stratigraphic, paleontologic, etc. Field work still is and should remain the foundation of most geologic research. Field work is particularly important for the young men which are beginning their research in geology. The National Research Council and similar bodies deal chiefly with research by young men. It cannot be emphasized often enough that field work should have precedence over any other type of research in these cases.

The various other types of research that you list in your postal card, such as Origin of oil and gas, Migration, etc., require a much broader outlook on various problems of geology than is the possession of most young geologists. After a certain amount of geologic field work has been done it is possible to understand these larger problems with all the implications. Many of the problems which you have listed cannot be approached at the present time and cannot be solved. In this category fall the origin, migration, and accumulation of oil and gas.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel, Geologist