



# Invitation to Change

By J. Rhett McMillian Jr. • APCO Past President & Former Executive Director

**A**lfred North Whitehead once said that the art of progress is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid disorder. Former California Governor Jerry Brown said that what we need is a flexible plan for an ever-changing world. Those two statements locate APCO in the present scheme of things.

The September 1, 1993, evaluation report on the APCO-International, Inc. structure and operation, made by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), was even more direct: It's time for APCO to again contemplate its navel. ASAE is considered foremost in its field.

You'll be hearing much more about the ASAE report and Association actions being taken as its consequence. An APCO Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) was appointed to vision and plan in these matters. SPC members will each report on specific areas under separate consideration. You will hear more about the SPC and its work shortly. This is a major effort.

President-Elect Steve Proctor and this writer (APCO Past President and who was APCO's first Executive

Director) were assigned to work on recommendations regarding possible restructuring of the Association. The author of this article is responding to a request by the SPC to place the present effort in historical perspective.

APCO was formed in 1935 by a bunch of blue uniforms responding to a need so direct it hurt: How to exchange information among jurisdictions in such a timely manner that criminals using fast modern automobiles (of the era) could be apprehended in flight. The new contraption known as radio was the answer.

So, the guys quickly elected officers and then got on with the main job of designing means and procedures. Ten-signals, message forms, relaying and station lists were originated. Little did they suspect the other whirlwinds they would be caught up in. *To Page 12*

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**SEE PAGES 36 AND 37**