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CASE AGAINST MERGER

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cannot be aligned, combined or compromised. The ICA and ACA are dramatically opposed on definition as well as philosophy. The ICA has always defined chiropractic as a subluxation-based practice while the ACA believes in the "states' rights" platform, allowing chiropractors to practice whatever is allowed in the states, even if it is clearly not chiropractic.

The last attempt at merger took place in 1987. ICA President Dr. Michael Pedigo pushed for merger between the two organizations. The proposed Board of Directors of the new organization (the American International Chiropractors Association) would have been made up of 7 ACA members and 3 ICA members, hardly a merger. As required by the ICA Constitution, the membership, not the leaders had the final say as to whether a merger could occur. Less than half of the required 66% ICA members voted for merger.[8] The defeat of merger was largely due to the efforts of Drs. Fred Barge and Sid Williams. The same issues of states' rights and separate and distinct were brought into the forefront once again. The ACA had agreed to a joint scope of practice definition but voted it down because it said chiropractors were "drugless" which contradicted their platform of states' rights. Dr. Pedigo then left the ICA and became president of the ACA and Dr. Fred Barge succeeded Dr. Pedigo as the ICA president.

Recently in the profession, there has been much discussion of Merger and Unity. Merger talks have been going on for almost a hundred years and it is my personal opinion that the two organizations can never merge because they have two different philosophies that are dualistic in nature. To recap from the historical records:

1. Merger has been discussed and debated but never resolved. We have many chiropractic associations, not because one is "better" than the other, or has more members, or more effective political clout, but because they are based on conflicting foundations. Merger is not possible when one side wants to preserve only unadulterated chiropractic and the other side works for chiropractic and other practices that states allow such as acupuncture, surgery, drugs, homeopathy, etc.
2. Merger attempts occur but always fail mostly due to the differences of philosophy. However, cooperation between two different organizations is possible and have occurred at important times in our history.
3. Merger in the true sense of the word would be an equal blending of the organizations involved. Any ratio different than 50:50 on the Board of Directors (for example the 70:30 ratio proposed in 1987) would consist of a hostile takeover, not a merger.

History has also demonstrated repeatedly that merger is divisive. However organizations can work in unity on certain issues to benefit the profession, without merger. For instance, chiropractic marshaled the support and efforts of the ICA and ACA working in cooperation with each other on certain issues (e.g. Medicare and the Wilk suit) to de-

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