

A SPECIAL MESSAGE

TO

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS of the 11th WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

It is with deep regret that the 11th World Science Fiction Convention Committee must inform you of the death of its chairman, James A. Williams, on March 22nd, 1953. Jim's final illness was very sudden and very brief. He was a strong influence in the progress of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and in the Convention Committee, and without his presence, neither of these organizations will be quite the same.

On March 29 there was held a meeting of the Philadelphia members of the Convention Committee, together with several New York members. Under the official Convention rules, a vacancy in the chair must be filled by means of an election held by the above group. This election was carried out at the March 29 meeting, with the result that the undersigned was chosen to be chairman of the Convention Committee.

At this time it is appropriate to reaffirm the policies of the Convention Committee. The 11th World Science Fiction Convention is going to be a convention for all readers of science fiction, and will be operated in a democratic manner. We make no distinction between professionals and fans; those people who write science fiction for money go to the conventions as fans, and who among the fans does not have ambitions of writing professionally? The program will naturally feature those individuals who have distinguished themselves in the field. In addition, a large part of the program will be devoted to the fans and their doings. This is going to be a convention in every sense of the word.

Certain criticism of the Convention Committee has appeared in the fan press. In at least two cases this criticism has been based upon inaccurate information. If the individuals responsible for this criticism had taken the trouble to check their facts, they would have discovered that their worries were unfounded.

I appeal to all of you. If, in the future, there is any matter which displeases you, or which you feel needs clarification, please write to me and tell me about it first before publicizing your dissatisfaction in a manner which will harm all of fandom. I will answer all questions to the best of my ability. We will all benefit from this procedure.

This is your convention. Give the Convention Committee the benefit of your ideas, your inspirations, your suggestions. Any fan can get himself on the program by coming up with something that is fresh, new, and interesting. Write to us.

Milton A. Rothman,
Convention Chairman.