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At the SNM board of trustees meeting in Los Angeles, the decision was made to move the Society's central office to the Washington, DC area. The reason to move away from New York is to provide a greater presence for SNM in Washington. This is a proactive, rather than a reactive decision. While some of the members question the necessity of moving the office to achieve the desired greater presence (it may be possible to do so by other means), the Society is a democratic organization and the majority opinion ruled. Since the decision has been made, the obligation of the members now is to support the decision and to work toward the goal that the board of trustees has set.

The decision to move was not based upon economics. The board essentially determined that there would be more services provided at the same cost. Specifically, all current services will be maintained and increased interaction with government will be added so that nuclear medicine's image is enhanced. This sounds fine and one would like to believe that it will all happen; however, exact costs of relocation, office space rental, and salaries were not known at the time of the board's decision.

The challenge now is to assure that membership services are maintained. The danger is that "Potomac fever" could overtake all of us if more and more of the Society's resources are reallocated to political and socioeconomic activities instead of to the scientific and educational activities that are the mission of the Society. We must keep in mind that the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP) came into being to address the socioeconomic issues that the Society could not. The whole issue and problem which necessitates the Society being involved at all, is that the ACNP represents only physicians, while the Society represents scientists and technologists as well. If this problem could somehow be dealt with by the ACNP, then the Society could focus even more of its resources on science and education.

In the meantime, as the Society makes its plans to move the office, we need to urge the Society and Technologist Section leadership to steadfastly guard those resources which are traditionally allocated to our scientific and educational efforts and not to fall prey to "Potomac fever."