UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

December 3, 1930

Mr. A. J. van Rossem,
C/o Mr. Donald R. Dickey,
California Institute of Technology,
Pasadena, California.

Dear Van:

Have no fear of my taking offense at your letter. I think it was a good reply to mine, in several respects. However, I believe another careful reading of it would show that I was not concerned about the "opposition" presenting its side of the case, nor about the resolution.

I can only reiterate the substance of my former letter, namely, that, for the reasons given, I feel it would be a serious mistake to involve Dr. Nelson personally. Right now he is here in Berkeley suffering from a re-attack of his old trouble brought on by over-exertion, and has orders to take complete rest and avoid excitement. When he is well enough to travel, he plans, as you know, to go south. Aside from unnecessarily developing antagonisms in him, such strain as would be occasioned by speaking on this particular matter at a C. O. C. meeting, might, to put it bluntly, cause his death. I, personally, should not think of engaging him in controversial conversation now or henceforth.

The reason I put the matter up to you was because I gathered that it was you who made the suggestion originally, and that it, therefore, would seem more in order for you than for anyone else, to suggest not getting Dr. Nelson before the Club on so controversial a subject, if the reasons I gave appealed to you -- and I think they should. Isn't that logical?

I have no least desire to influence the Southern Division, or, for that matter, any Division of the C. O. C. Also, I think your idea in having a speaker of the opposition is O. K. Piper, who is in southern California and who spoke here on his investigations for the need of bird poisoning; or Goldman, who is in the west; or any one of several others would be just as strong as, or stronger for poison, the ten-year program and the justification for these, ~~as~~ than Dr. Nelson.

I just now went over to Stirt's office and found that he left last night to reach his father in Kansas who is critically ill. Guess he will have a cold trip and I am afraid a sad one.

Sincerely,

E. Raymond Hall

P.S., as per your example I send Dr. Miller a copy of this since I want him too, to understand what I meant,