

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir:

Having just returned from an excellent World Conference on edible oil processing in the Netherlands, I am writing to correct an important piece of misinformation disseminated at the Conference.

During the course of the sessions, one of the speakers inferred the demise or decline of all press manufacturers, except for a few whose equipment he described in his speech.

I could speak for many in the audience who felt that the tone and substance of this talk were inappropriate for the setting. Inaccurate and self-serving editorializing sullies the intellectual integrity of a Conference such as the one you have recently sponsored. A candid expression of ideas and technology is important in an industry conference, but when turned into a sales pitch, an audience can become alienated to the point where ideas of merit become obscured, even though offered by less biased speakers.

Furthermore, I speak for my company and our many customers in stating that we at Anderson have made a strong and important contribution to the oil seed processing industry for nearly a century and can categorically state that this contribution is growing.

Our company invented the screw press and we have probably made more of them than any other manufacturer. Our present product line includes large capacity presses used by the most sophisticated oil seed processors in the world, as well as smaller presses offering economy and simplicity of design, important for smaller mills in remote areas.

In closing, let me emphasize that the above thoughts are offered that they might help planners of future conferences improve the overall quality of the discussions.

Very truly yours,
Robert E. Weinberg
President
Anderson International Corp.

Program Chairman Norm Witte replies:

I agree that commercialism does not belong in the presentations for a World Conference such as The Hague.

The Program Committee tried to address this problem aggressively; it was discussed at almost every meeting and stressed on numerous occasions to the session chairpersons. Our Guidelines to Speakers emphasized that papers should be on a technical level and that speakers should cover the state-of-the-art, using information from all technologists and publications to show where the industry is today.

We attempted over the two-year planning period to select and enlist the most qualified speakers for each subject. Overall, I think we came close to this objective but the selection process for such a comprehensive assignment is a difficult one. Many qualified speakers could not serve because of time or other constraints.

The speakers themselves were, of course, under time constraints during both preparation and delivery of their papers, so every organization who should have been mentioned may not have been.

We regret that the contributions of Anderson International to the industry could have been misinterpreted by those at the conference.

Your comments are appreciated. Future program committees will, I am sure, do their best to try to improve on The Hague.