

STATEMENT BY R.H. FOOTE

As an emeritus professor this does not affect me directly. However, I remember the shock waves on campus and elsewhere when the Division of Biological Sciences was set up. Keith Kennedy appointed Drs. Van Tienhoven, Tapper and myself to work out an academic structure that would accommodate undergraduates and graduate students in physiology and professional veterinary students. It was not easy. The solution was not perfect. It takes years to overcome biases, but it has worked!

Biological science, in this day of great advances in medicine through discoveries in biological science, is one of the most important areas in any university. It will be so for years to come. Where will Cornell be? What shock waves will go through alumni, government and industry if the Division is eliminated? Even if enormous measures are taken to be sure that 1) teaching of undergraduates, including the Explorations program, 2) graduate education and 3) biotechnology are all given high priority administrative support, the message to the inside and outside world could be disastrous.

There is a tendency for the University to appoint a committee when there are administrative problems in a unit. Such a committee is made up of good faculty, but few have been directly involved or affected by these changes? Of course an outside view is good, but can this committee predict with a high degree of certainty that "disrupting the apple cart" will bring about a better load of apples?

I am frankly not familiar with what the final recommendations of the Committee are or will be. I am simply imploring the Committee to become fully conversant with the past versus the present and be certain that any changes will assure a stronger biological sciences with an equal or greater commitment by the University of its resources.

10/12/98