At the beginning of what promises to be the greatest year in the history of our Association, the Board considered the persons and groups who have given invaluable assistance in their long and often discouraging struggle to obtain a suitable recognition of County Commissioners as effective local governmental officials. The Board, recognizing that the County Commissioners of this State were grateful to the many people who have assisted the County Commissioners in their efforts to improve county government, passed the following resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED that we extend our heartfelt thanks and grateful appreciation to all of those loyal and interested persons who have provided invaluable assistance to the Indiana Association of County Commissioners in their efforts to make the Association an effective agency for the improvement of local government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our particular gratitude be expressed to Judge John B. Glass, of Texas, for the help and inspiration provided us during the last state convention in December of 1955.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Prof. John Stoner of Indiana University and Prof. Ben Petty of Purdue University be informed of our gratitude for their cooperation with the County Commissioners of the State in their effort to improve the administration of county highway systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of Purdue University be informed of our gratitude and requested to notify those people who assisted the University in providing invaluable assistance to County Commissioners in their efforts to improve county highway systems by the information made available at the Purdue Road School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Secretary of the Association be directed to inform by letter each of the
persons and institutions to which we are grateful of the action taken by the Association.

An Invitation to the National Association of County Officials

The County Commissioners of Indiana are grateful for the assistance they have received at the conventions of the National Association and believe that the county officials of other States could derive much benefit and be amply entertained at a convention held at Indianapolis. Therefore, the Board adopted the following resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Indiana County Commissioners Association invite the National Association of County Officials to bring the 1958 annual convention of the National Association to the city of Indianapolis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Association be invited to hold its midyear committee meeting in Indianapolis during the year of 1956.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Secretary of the Association be directed to notify the President of the National Association of County Officials of the invitation, and take the steps that are necessary to receive the acceptance of the offer from the National Association and to cooperate with the National Association in making the convention a success.

Improvement of County Highway Systems

The Board considered the critical conditions of the county highway systems in Indiana. It was emphasized that improvement in our county highway systems requires planning, and adoption of adequate standards and sufficient funds to build and maintain necessary highways in keeping with the standards adopted. Therefore, the Board adopted the following series of resolutions designated to carry out the program of the Association to provide for better county highways:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Indiana Association of County Commissioners, recognizing that the growth and progress of the communities of our State will depend primarily upon adequate county planning, recommend that all of the counties of the State adopt a program of county planning, and that the facilities of the County Commissioners Association be made available to any county requiring assistance in establishing a planning program.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Indiana County Commissioners Association adopt the minimum specifications for roads and bridges
recommended in a brochure submitted by Pierce, Gruber and Beam, and that the Association urge that the county comply with the specifications in constructing and maintaining county highways and bridges.

BE IT RESOLVED that, since additional funds are necessary to build and maintain county highway systems in conformance with the standards adopted by the Commissioners Association, that the Indiana County Commissioners Association petition the 1957 General Assembly to provide an increase in highway funds sufficient to make it possible to comply with adequate standards for the construction and maintenance of highways. As an increase in highway funds is necessary to provide adequate assistance to the counties of Indiana, it is essential that no change be made in the present method of distributing highway funds to the State, cities, and counties.

The Board urged each county commissioner to assist in making the program of the Association effective by maintaining his membership in the Association, and it has pledged itself to make effective the program adopted by the Board at its meeting.