

RISING ABOVE THE REST

(Installation of International President 1991-92, Martha Philip)

This past year has provided the opportunity for each member to make a firm commitment to our association. The budget crunch we have experienced is just a glimpse of the economic constraints many of our companies are experiencing. We will continue to provide the benefit of membership and we are committed to the growth of Credit Professionals International.

The hot air balloon that your new President has chosen is a symbol that has meant a great deal to her and the members of District Thirteen. She shared that theme with Jeannie Jones, Past President of District Five in 1984 when they were jointly installed in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The bright colorful balloon we see floating across the airways of clear blue sky, free from all ties to earth, moving at the will of the prevailing winds, will be our theme this year.

Credit Professionals International, although not as old as the art of ballooning, resembles the graceful soaring of a balloon. Having organized in the far west, it has moved across the entire continent until it has become international in scope. It has been subject to upwinds and downdrafts, and CPI has had to light the burners to heat the gas in its balloon to surmount the peaks. CPI has jettisoned some ballast by making changes over the years to keep our balloon aloft.

The first balloon in 1783 was nothing more than a large paper bag filled with hot smoke; to the weather balloons used during the civil war to observe over enemy lines, most balloons were captive balloons, that is tied to the ground. One of those civil war observers, Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, a young military attache in Washington, returned to Germany to develop dirigibles which had no ties to the ground.

Jules Verne referred to balloons in many of his novels in the 1860's. While we don't plan to travel "Around the World in 80 Days" as his characters did, we are preparing for our flight by loading our gondola with the materials needed to stay aloft. Along with extension kits, and education materials, our membership plans, and the officers - that will provide our course of action. They will determine the direction we take, and they will need the assistance of the District Presidents. Will they assemble please?

(District Presidents come forward and assemble on stage.)

As Presidents of your districts you have the vital link which allows our international network to function. We look to you to provide the communications to your state and local clubs about our need for increased membership, our educational programs and through you, we expect to see growth and recognition for your accomplishments.

Can we ask for your co-operation in our endeavors?

(Answer: "Yes I will")

Will the officers come on stage in front of the District Presidents please?

As officers of Credit Professionals International, each of you has many years of dedicated service to CPI. We ask you now to again dedicate yourselves to our association. We need your strength, your wisdom, your candid ability to resolve problems. Never has it been more important than now that we depend on the skills you possess to provide for the continued existence of CPI. Each of you has demonstrated that uncanny ability to serve. Will you continue?

(Answer: "Yes I will")

President Martha Philip, you will "Rise Above the Rest" and lead our association throughout this next year. Just as we will look to your officers and District Presidents for their skills and talents, we will look to you for that rare

combination of persistence, imagination, vision, sincerity and integrity of leadership.

Your poise and good common sense will be called upon often in this next year. Will you lead us?

(Answer: "Yes I will")

Members of Credit Professionals International and guests, will you stand with me now and show your support by your applause.

(Closing remarks here and an introduction to the duly installed officers of Credit Professionals International.)