

## ONE ASSOCIATION'S LOSS, IS ANOTHER ASSOCIATION'S GAIN

It has been nearly a year now since Ben Chlevin offered his resignation as Executive Director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Ben was a very close friend of the Chicago area Superintendents and therefore many of us have expressed concern over Ben's whereabouts.

Ben is presently working with the National Golf Foundation serving as the Public Relations Director. Ben will be based in the Chicago area and is temporarily doing extensive traveling on behalf of the foundation.

According to Ben, during the past ten years, the Federal Housing Administration (F.H.A.) has guaranteed loans for 597 golf courses in rural areas. These courses are built in areas where communities can't afford to raise conventional financing but Congress felt should have equal opportunities for recreational facilities. It seems, however, that 25% of these courses are faltering due to inadequate planning, and inadequate help.

At present, The National Golf Foundation is under contract by the F.H.A. to investigate the problems and to supply the much needed planning and help to put these courses back on the right track. Although it is presently premature, Ben feels that in about two years these small operations may be ideal locations for young superintendents to "get their feet wet" and therefore be a great help to both our profession as well as these clubs.

Shortly after the first of the year, Ben hopes to spend all of his time in the office working on promotional programs on behalf of The National Golf Foundation. He hopes to be able to find time in his busy schedule to attend some of our Midwest meetings. I am sure all of us are happy to learn that Ben says that he "feels just great" and is very happy in his new position.

Jim Bertoni

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