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Golf Digest,
Letters to the Editor,
c/o Larry Dennis,
297 Westport Avenue,
Norwalk, Conn. 06856
Dear Sir:

I want first to compliment Mr. Larry Dennis for his excellent article concerning slow golf play and how to speed up the game. However, as an ardent golf enthusiast, and an active participant for many years of this wonderful old game, I think that one major hindrance to fast play was missed by Mr. Dennis. I am referring to the number of unnecessary golf clubs that golfers carry.

In my opinion the average player carries far too many golf clubs. He doesn't need 14 clubs. And the time he spends, during the course of a round, in deciding which club to use (usually the wrong one) leads to slow play and much frustration. Frankly, if he had fewer clubs to cope with, he would have fewer decisions to make. Moreover, his game would improve. Although I have always had the greatest respect for golf professionals and, of course, for the fine craftsmanship of the golf club manufacturer, I think both groups are appealing to the golfer's vanity, rather than to what he really needs and can cope with. It's time to break up the sets of golf clubs and sell the golfer only what he needs.

The escalation of few clubs to the present high number of fourteen clubs is slowing the game. There has even been some discussion to go to a higher number—such as a seven wood, an eleven wood, and so on, which would total five woods and nine

irons plus a putter. (By the way, what the hell is an eleven wood?) It's time, I think, to quit fooling ourselves.

All we are doing is frustrating ourselves—and holding up play by wasting important time with 14 decisions (at least) about which club out of 14 to select. It's ridiculous. Can you picture a 20-handicap player deciding whether or not he should use a one iron for his next shot? In my opinion, all that any good player need to use is a driver, a 3, 5, and 8 iron, a sand wedge, and a putter (at the most one or two other clubs). Any more is a gross appeal to his vanity.

Consider, also, the fact that the smaller expense of a smaller golf set (along with a smaller bag) could get more beginners interested in the game, no matter what their income level. Golf, for better or worse an elite sport, would thus be able to compete better with other and less expensive sports like tennis and backyard paddle tennis. On top of all this, a young caddy would have more time to watch where the ball lands, and to pay more attention to his other golf duties, one of which is the proper club his golfer should use. This last is a lost art and no wonder. With that many clubs to choose from, how can any caddy be expected to know what club to use when the golfer himself is puzzled as to the selection? To compound the situation, the caddy also has to lug an unnecessary, exhausting 50-pound bag laden with 14 clubs plus an extra putter or wedge, a transistor radio, extra shoes, jacket, and other mishmash, along with practice balls and God knows what other idiosyncracies. Only half of these clubs can possibly be used for playing golf—and the other half for killing rattlesnakes, gophers, and other visions. It's a wonder that the caddies don't get more hernias. The present excessive number of clubs used by the average player is adding to frustration, slow play, tremendous expense, and perhaps the eventual downfall of this wonderful old game. It's time to quit listening to the sales pitch by the clubmakers and concentrate on faster and better golf play.

I remain yours truly for further discussion at the 19th hole.
Paul N. Voykin

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS TURFGRASS FIELD WORKSHOP

June 18, 1974

Chicago Botanic Garden
Glencoe, Illinois

Registration: 9:30-10:00 A.M.

FIELD TOUR (10:00 - 11:40)

- Stop 1 — Turfgrass Varietal Plots - A. J. Turgeon
 - Stop 2 — Turfgrass Disease Diagnosis -
M. C. Shurtleff and W. A. Meyer
 - Stop 3 — Insect Identification and Control -
R. Randell
 - Stop 4 — Ground Cover Display - F. A. Giles
- 11:40 - 1:30 — Break for lunch

WORKSHOP (1:30 - 3:30)

- Fungicide Evaluation Results and Recommendations
for Turfgrass - M. C. Shurtleff
- Helminthosporium Diseases of Bentgrass -
W. A. Meyer
- Insecticide Research on Turf - R. Randell
- Herbicide Research on Turf - A. J. Turgeon
- Care and Planting of Trees and Shrubs - F. A. Giles

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