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## GOLFDOM Speaks out

### PGA-APG: New Negotiators Needed

Confrontation in the courts is the latest consequence of the long-run dispute raging between Professional Golfers' Association and American Professional Golfers, the new touring pros' organization. The latest instance of acrimony between the groups is in the form of a restraining order obtained by PGA to prevent APG from making contracts with the tournament sponsors for 1969 tournaments, from contracting players for a training school and from using documents and confidential records PGA alleges some of its former employees took with them.

To further confuse the situation the sponsors organization, International Golf Sponsors Association, said it is unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with either PGA or APG and has urged its members to make individual arrangements for 1969 tournaments.

In the midst of these divisive happenings the president of the dissident APG group, Gardner Dickinson, has said, "I see no need for more negotiating. We're going ahead with business as usual. We pretty well know where we're going." The group's vice president, Jack Nicklaus, echoes this sentiment, "We've gone as far as we can to try to keep this thing together. It's their move now."

On the PGA side president Max Elbin recently issued a PGA position paper with this closing paragraph. "Some of those who have precipitated the difficulties may be surprised to find out how little time will be required to develop a new crop of capable players."

On both sides these words reflect attitudes ever more intractable.

The crux of the situation is that the teams of negotiators are so deeply mired in their own emotionally-charged feelings that they may have lost their ability to bring reasonable judgement to bear. Thus, they are furthering the impasse.

Some observers close to the situation feel that the opposing points of view may not be as far apart as might seem. These observers, interested in the growth and health of the game, are asking if there isn't a real possibility of uniting the two sides by taking a fresh approach. Meanwhile, the present state of affairs is widening rather than narrowing what in reality may be only a small gap.

If this is indeed the case, might it not be better if the present negotiators relinquish their roles and allow new teams of peacemakers to step in and try their hand?

If both PGA and APG are genuinely interested in resolving the conflict isn't it incumbent on both groups to try a fresh attack on the problem? A step as simple and direct as using different people to talk over the differences, may be the very ingredient needed to start breaking the logjam of conflicting opinions and emotions.

It would be tragic for all parties and the game if in sight of each other a reconciliation was not brought about because emotion had closed the eyes and ears.