



Accommodating Without Compromise

By E.L. Crowder, D.C., Ph.C.

Editor's note: Dr. Crowder's article, Accommodating Without Compromise, is the last of a three-part series. We thank Dr. Crowder for sharing his thoughts with us.

Neither you nor chiropractic deserves to ever be compromised. If you have confidence in the Big Idea, it is easy to give it dignity and respect. Chiropractic has an identity and quality deserving respect, and yes, bravery, if we are going to keep it.

Some chiropractors won't relate to this at all. And very likely you already know several of them. Regardless, these are practitioners who may be ignorant and incompetent. There are others who simply are professionally dishonest. It will ever be so, and chiropractors are human and average. We can expect, as with farmers, authors, surgeons and teachers, there will be 10 percent superstars, 10 percent incompetents, and 80 percent who follow the loudest noise. B.J. Palmer disassociated himself from people having those unfortunate characteristics. He was rude, by exact purpose and design, to those he felt compromised chiropractic through their actions. I suggest you do the same.

Once you have established yourself as a true professional in every sense of the word, it is time to use your center of influence in the area of interest you have determined to be important.

The first step is to attach yourself to leaders or prospective leaders who hold the same high standards you do. Get to know, and work unselfishly for them. You will be appreciated and you will be well on your way in leaving a positive mark on the future of chiropractic.

Probably the toughest thing for you to do will be to find the chiropractic leadership to support. Remember, only a few leaders practice professional integrity, so you must look for the person with strong convictions which parallel your own!

Look for the person who understands innate and universal design. We might take a leaf from Marcus Bach's book. He said:

B.J. was unquestionably right about some things as he was acceptably wrong about others. He was surely right in his insistence that for 5,000 years people had "grown up in a drug store." He was right about the power of innate and its role in the body's determination to be well!

And, judging from the wide-spread cures of chiropractic, the astonishing record of healings that had piled up through the years, and the enviable success with patients who had gone the medical rounds before taking a chance on adjustments, he was right that chiropractic represented not only a wish and a will—but a way to be well.

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To return to this desired level of chiropractic, it will take all of us. Consequently, you must be loyal to those professional leaders who adhere to those principles upon which you agree. This includes support of sound professional education in institutions guided by the philosophy, science and art as devised by D.D. Palmer and developed by B.J. and others.

Support chiropractic research which is dedicated to only those chiropractic concerns which need to be scientifically validated. Let's not waste time or intellectual and financial resources in such diverse topics as the life cycle of termites in creosoted telephone poles!

Since chiropractic research is man-

dated as a major concern of our educational institutions, take heed from these words by Dr. Harold J. Morowitz, medical columnist and author of *The Wine of Life*:

The threat to academic freedom is not the mob from without, it is the white-collar mob within. They have been conjured up in response to

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taking the route of government funding. To refuse this route is to fall by the wayside; to accept it is to surrender independence of action. If it is not too late, the private universities as well as the public institutions must somehow seek paths to preserve self-motivated action and integrity. Paraphrasing Patrick Henry, "Are federal grants so dear or success so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?"

So, my friends, beware of Trojan horses. They are out there in all manner of disguises. Fund the important research. Maintain the colleges and associations.

Never lose sight of issues which will guard against the loss of the profession through either denegration, absorption or distillation into mediocrity, and thereby lead to the fall of chiropractic to an adjunct service to another body of healing arts.

Be contemporary! A science is absolutely linked to the intellect of its time. As you remain devoted to fundamental truth, do know that as times change, so do people. Learn to accommodate without compromise.

If this sounds like chiropractic heresy,

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Accommodating

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let me remind you how B.J. accommodated without compromise. B.J.'s research clinic was designed to prove chiropractic to the intellect of the day. Do you think he was proving anything to himself by having a medical staff in the clinic? Do you think he was ever com-

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promised? Never!

Dr. D.O. Pharaoh, Palmer professor of anatomy, accommodated to dissection in the curriculum by requiring students to write a dissertation on evidence of innate found in the cadaver.

Do you remember the broadcast call letters WOC—World of Chiropractic—and WHO—With Hands Only? President Reagan still remembers that WOC stands for World of Chiropractic!

In the 1920s and '30s, B.J. really put it on the line. You never know how something you may think, say or do today will influence the lives of millions tomorrow.

As you look forward through the eyes of a futurist or behavioral scientist, remain aware that the future is purchased by the present, even as the present is being nurtured by the past—our chiropractic history and heritage. In other words, as you look ahead, also glance back occasionally to see where you came from—the bedrock of chiropractic philosophy, science and art.

If B.J. were here he would remind and admonish each of us, "The Infinite is not a bankrupt and we who represent the Infinite should not be."

B.J. died on May 27, 1961—26 years ago. If he were to return today, his shock would be great. It would not be long before we would hear his wrath. Lightning bolts of words would strike at every nook and cranny of chiropractic in an effort to right the wrongs which have come to pass in the last quarter century.

B.J. might take us by the hand as if we were children and remind us again, "My illustrious father placed this trust in my keeping, to keep it pure and unsullied or defamed. I pass it on to you unstained, to protect as he would have you do. We admonish you to keep this principle and practice unadulterated and un-mixed. The burdens are heavy—time is of the essence—guard it well."

Are we so prosperous that we have developed an uncaring attitude toward the very thing which has given us so much? Are we clothed in the platitudes of professional leaders who care more for themselves than they do chiropractic? Aren't our chiropractic educational institutions straying off the course of pure chiropractic under the guise of academic freedom and the direction of presidents and deans hell-bent on their own courses of advancement and personal glorification?

Yes, we are caught in our own vanity. We don't realize how truly naked we are in our professional conceit which has

divorced us from almost everything, including the Chiropractic Oath all of us took at the time of our graduations.

Imagine the savage disappointment which would be shared by D.D., B.J. and all the many other chiropractic pioneers who struggled so valiantly to give us our careers today. These giants of chiropractic would never settle or accept our current attitudes of, "We have survived thus far" or worse than that, "We've come a long way."

Our chiropractic ancestors could not stand for our present posture.

How selfish we have become! We do not realize this conceit may cost us the independence bought by jail and heart-break of so many whose names may soon be forgotten because remembering will be unimportant.

Stand for the preservation of chiropractic truths as created by D.D. Palmer and developed by B.J. Palmer. The time is now to defend chiropractic, or run the terrible and horrible risk of losing it.

I cannot say it will be easy. The challenge is there and the rewards are great. I remind you: there can be no rainbow without a cloud and a storm!

Defend chiropractic with a sense of proportion. Practice chiropractic with a sense of balance, but don't compromise its values.

Defend chiropractic with responsibility. Think things through carefully. Know your position and use it well.

Defend chiropractic with consideration. Be alert to other people and other cultures. Be sensitive in your response to them but without compromise or concession.

Defend chiropractic with professional poise and confidence. Be knowledgeable about the profession. Help your profession without vanity and conceit.

Defend chiropractic by being professionally discerning. Develop your ability to make good choices of direction and leadership by being able to identify excellence. And once you have discovered excellence, defend it with every fibre of your being.

Defend chiropractic by your professional individuality. Have a personal identity within chiropractic—an identity which represents a distinctive expression of professional value. Strengthen your point of view and make it work for chiropractic.

Do all these things and chiropractic will survive and grow and prosper. False prophets, compromising in the lust of personal gain, will fall by the wayside.