Two decades ago, the leadership of the American Society of Agronomy was concerned with the relationship of our Society to other professional societies both within and outside of the general area of agriculture. The American Institute of Biological Sciences had been organized, sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences. Some of the scientific societies with their roots in agriculture immediately chose to affiliate with the Institute. Other scientific agricultural societies, including the American Society of Agronomy, decided not to affiliate with this new organization. The thought behind their decisions was that agricultural sciences, mission oriented as they are, could and should develop parallel to biological sciences. Also, agricultural sciences include chemical, physical, and social sciences as well as biological sciences. Furthermore, integration of the agricultural scientists into the main body of biological scientists could reduce the effective thrust of mission-oriented scientists.

In the early 1950's, attention was directed toward the possible organization of an Institute of Agricultural Sciences. Our Society budgeted funds for work with other scientific agricultural societies to investigate the possibility of some type of union which would strengthen the position of the agricultural scientists. Eight agricultural science professional societies were interested in considering some type of union. Nothing happened as a result of this