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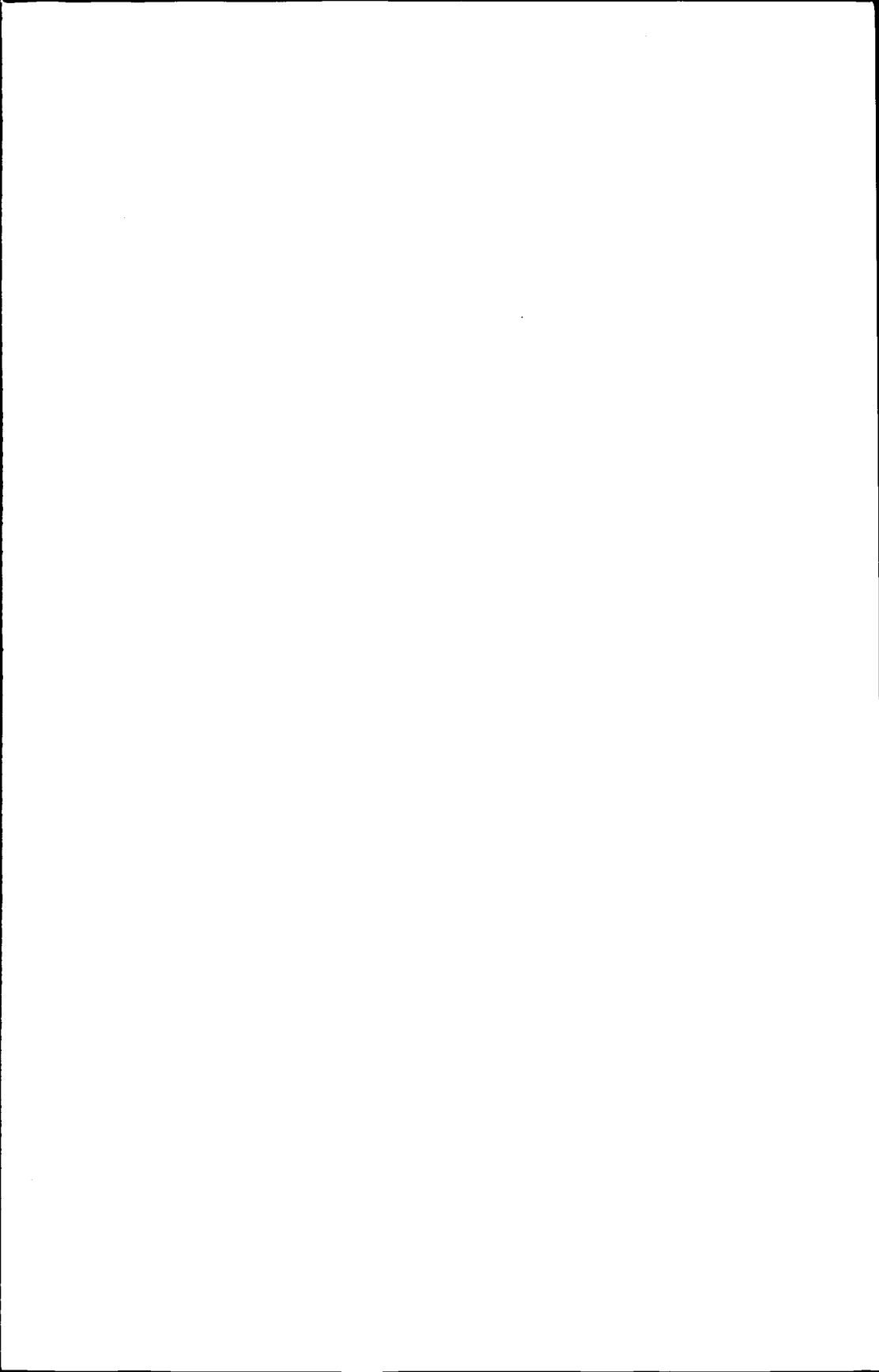
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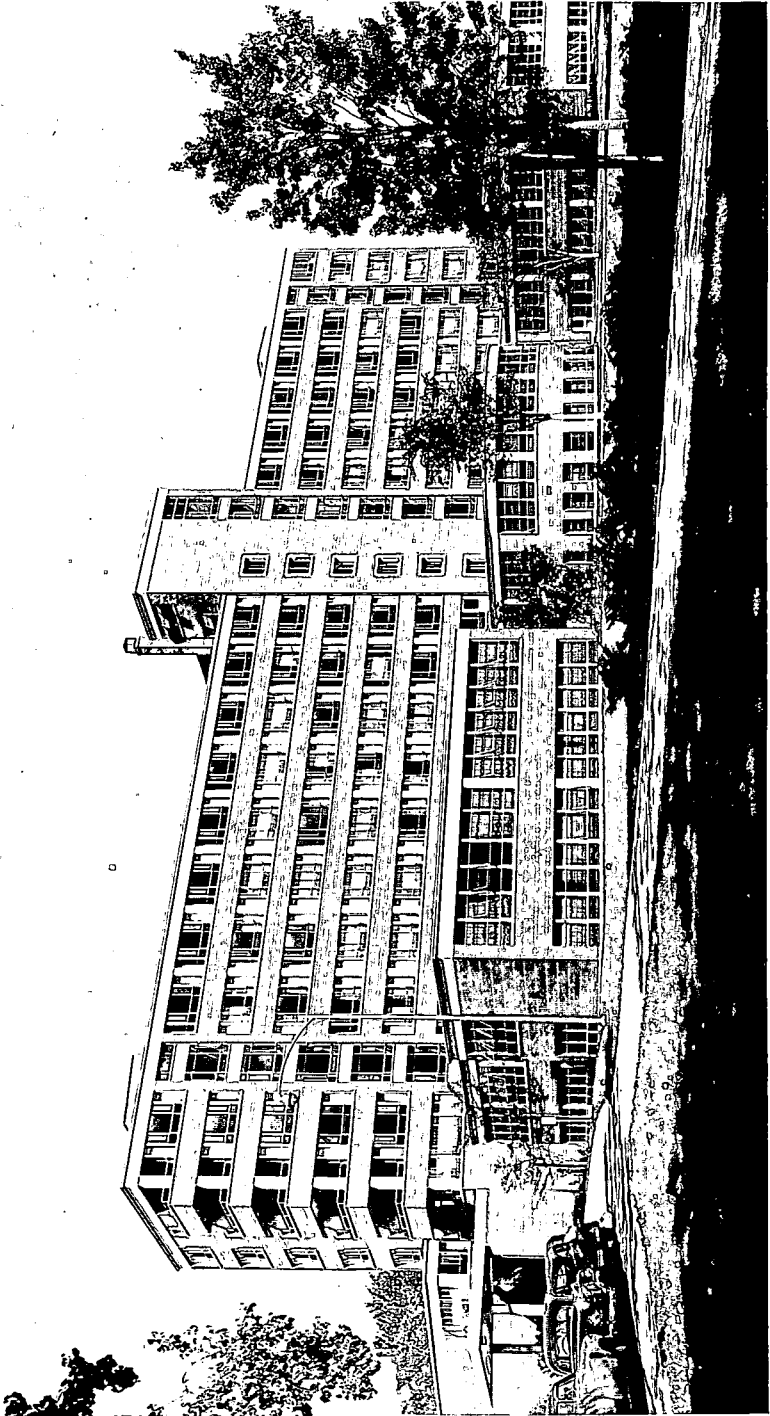
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
EIGHTH  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS





THE KELLOGG CENTER, MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
EIGHTH  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

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MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE  
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## PREFACE

THE publication of the *Proceedings* gives me an opportunity to render thanks on behalf of all our members to those who helped in one way or another to make the Conference such a valuable meeting place.

The warm invitation to visit the Michigan State College of Agriculture came to us from its President, Dr. John A. Hannah, who welcomed us on arrival and emphasized to our delight the need, in times when so many aspects of our life must be affected by the State, for objective analysis and free and independent judgement by all of us as private individuals.

Anyone familiar with the problem of organizing and carrying through a conference programme will realize what an important part is played by the facilities and amenities of the place where it is to be held. In this respect the 1952 Conference was most fortunate. We met under ideal conditions in a building which was designed for exactly this kind of gathering. Not only did it provide a very comfortable hall for discussion and excellent living accommodation for most of us, but it offered all these facilities under one roof, and room for the equally important informal talks and friendly gatherings which are such a marked feature of our meetings.

The large dining-hall so conveniently adjacent to the auditorium kept the folks together so that we were able to extract the maximum value from the available hours, which, as usual, always seemed to be in short supply. Under these conditions, backed by the efficient domestic and kitchen staff, a useful and continuous interchange of ideas took place.

From the earliest days of our Conference we have tried to create an environment where people come to know one another quickly and meet each other easily so that, with formalities kept to a minimum, the spread of new techniques can take place rapidly—a vital factor in our dynamic science. We have always assumed, and I think rightly, that a friendly and informal environment is needed if we are to provide an atmosphere where frank and full discussion can take place and produce the maximum of light with the minimum of heat. This is important. We deal sometimes with technical and sometimes with highly controversial matters and if the folks from differing backgrounds are to be able to get the true grasp of each other's problems they must speak frankly, even with emotion, but always be ready to salt their more serious reflections with a pinch of humour. As the membership of our Conference grows and the

size of our meetings increases, the task of getting the right atmosphere of friendly informality becomes progressively difficult. We may not always be so happily situated as we were at East Lansing, or so fortunate in the membership of our gathering, but this important principle needs to be recognized and pursued in the planning of all future conferences. In fact, the greater the number of countries represented and the larger the number of folks involved, the more needful it is that members can come to know and trust each other, and thereby learn more easily from each other's experiences.

If we are to enlarge the opportunity provided by the Conference we must also make it easy for a due proportion of the younger members of our profession to attend and take part. Equally, it is important that money should be available to enable sufficient professors, government officials, and farmers to attend, to make possible a fair exchange of ideas on all phases of the problems arising from our discussions of rural welfare. Currency difficulties do not make this any easier for us. On the contrary, they tend to create an unfortunate situation in which the availability of foreign exchange tends to be selective in favour of those directly engaged in government service. Financial support from government sources, often inevitable and necessary, tends in the same direction. On this occasion the valiant efforts of our hosts, the American Council strongly backed by the Canadian Council, overcame this otherwise insuperable problem by enlisting the aid of many private agencies who gave generous assistance in various forms. In fact, had it not been for the munificent support of the Kellogg Foundation and the Whitney Foundation, it would not have been possible to hold the meetings in North America at all. Nor could the bus tours through rural areas before and after the Conference, now such an important feature of our gatherings, have been carried through, if it had not been for handsome financial support given by numbers of private and public bodies in the U.S.A. and Canada. That the effort was worth while no one would doubt who has had access to the number of letters of appreciation and commendation received.

It is impossible to plan a programme that will satisfy all participants. The most common criticism received on this occasion was the lack of time for discussion. It is difficult to see how this can be met without extending the length of the Conference, or without cutting down the number of subjects discussed. Nor can the free time available at the meetings be pruned much further without prejudicing this valuable complement to our meetings. None the less, in future all these aspects will have to be carefully considered.

Looking back, it is interesting to recall the ease and enthusiasm with which so many people took part in the discussions. I was particularly pleased to see the courageous way in which some of the younger generation made real contributions to very vital problems. This should give us confidence in the future, and a good indication of the lines on which our policy should be developed.

It is appropriate to mention here the amount of 'back-room' work that goes into the planning of the Conference. I wish I might have an opportunity to thank publicly all those who so willingly helped. Amongst them, special mention must be made of the officers and members in the numerous countries I visited before the meeting in order to take counsel about conference matters; the organizers of the tours in Canada and in the Middle West, coupled with the names of Mr. Joe Coke and Dr. H. C. M. Case who organized them with remarkable success; all those at the College of Agriculture at East Lansing, who not only carried out most efficiently the formal arrangements for holding the Conference there, but who presented us with so many pleasant opportunities of paying visits to their homes. I feel that a special word of thanks is due to the Ladies' Committee under the joint chairmanship of Mrs. Cowden and Mrs. Witt for their very fine gesture of goodwill; to the agencies who gave us hospitality in so many ways, and to the farmers who took such pains to describe and show their farms to us. To all of these we tender our deepest appreciation and thanks.

The Conference of course makes heavy demands on the more permanent members of staff. It would be no mere convention to describe Mr. J. R. Currie's unremitting efforts as indefatigable. This time a considerable load was taken over by Dr. Joe Ackerman, as Secretary of the U.S.A. Group, and to him and the Farm Foundation we owe a great debt indeed. Thanks beyond telling are due to the whole American Council, that stalwart band: M. R. Benedict, F. F. Hill, O. B. Jesness, Sherman E. Johnson, and Dean Ernest Young, our Vice-President.

There can be few bodies to compare with a peripatetic organization such as ours for disrupting the routine of local affairs, and although nothing appeared to ruffle the outward calm of the authorities of Michigan State College—not even of the staff of the Agricultural Economics Department—the energy and enthusiasm expended on our behalf by Dr. T. K. Cowden, Dr. C. M. Hardin, Professor Lawrence Witt, and a host of others too numerous to mention, call for our warmest thanks.

Through the untimely death of Mr. John Maxton, editor of the

*Proceedings* for so many years, Mr. Roger Dixey, now Director of the Institute of Agrarian Affairs, took over the editorship. He tells me he is particularly grateful for the help he received from Dale Butz, Karl Wright, and all the recording staff. This volume bears testimony to the efficient way they kept watch over all who contributed to our deliberations.<sup>1</sup>

L. K. ELMHIRST

<sup>1</sup> *Much of the subsequent work of seeing this volume through the press has fallen on Mr. Andrew W. Ashby and Miss P. Hooke of the Institute of Agrarian Affairs at the University of Oxford. ED.*

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