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JOURNAL OF THE

Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council

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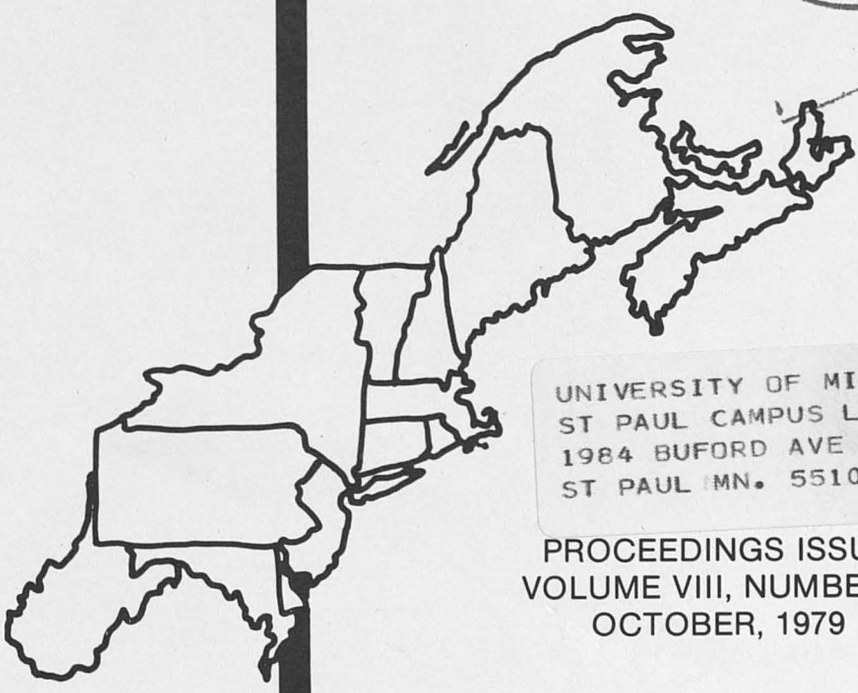

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PROCEEDINGS ISSUE
VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 2
OCTOBER, 1979

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting of the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council was called to order at 8:30 A.M. on June 20, 1979 at the University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, by President Johannes Delphandahl.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

The minutes of June 21, 1978 annual meeting at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire were approved as printed in the Journal. The Treasurer's report as of June 11, 1979, indicated a balance of $1,280.14, and was approved as read.

Auditor's Report

Kenneth D. McIntosh, auditor, gave the following report: The Treasurer's (Mary Templeton) accounts of the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council were audited June 1, 1979 by Paul Nesselroad and Kenneth D. McIntosh. The deposits, interest, income, expenses, beginning and ending balances were found to be true and accurate account of items shown in the accounting records and bank statements of Mary E. Templeton, Treasurer for the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council as of June 1, 1979. Kenneth D. McIntosh noted a net decrease in cash position from June 9, 1978 to June 11, 1979 of $1,547.10 due to the increase cost in printing charges for the Journal. The suggestion was made to mail a financial report with the agenda for the Fall meeting to the Executive Committee for review prior to the meeting. John Malone made a motion to accept the report as submitted; it was seconded by Robert Sinclair and passed unanimously.

Membership Report

As of June 18, 1979, the total membership was 233. The breakdown is as follows: regular members 200; student members 16; Distinguished members 2; Honorary members 15. The secretary noted there had been approximately a seventy-five percent decline in student membership and an effort would be made during the next year to increase student membership.

Editors Report

Dale Colyer, editor, reported the Spring Journal was at the printers and will be mailed to members in the next month. There had been some problems in getting the Journal published; however, the situation was improved and the editor did not forsee any problems in the future. Editor Colyer reported that 17 papers had been submitted for 1979 Spring issue and eleven of the papers were accepted. He also indicated the cooperation of the reviewers was excellent, and he appreciated their assistance. Colyer announced he was approaching his last year as editor and suggested

an associate editor should be appointed. He also suggested that the new editor start with the Spring issue, for 1980. A motion was made, seconded and passed that Dale Colyer and V. Norton meet and make recommendations on the editorship at the fall meeting. Special thanks was extended to Editor Colyer for an outstanding job.

By-Laws

Alan Bird (chairman ad hoc committee for proposed revisions to the NAEC By-Laws) gave special thanks to his committee, Sid Ishee and Jerry Cole. He also thanked J. Delphandahl for his assistance. He announced that J. Fellows has agreed to serve as historian for the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council. It was agreed that each by-law change would be voted on separately.

The following articles and sections of the by-laws were amended:*

1. Article I, Sections 1-5;
   Article III, Sections 1-3, 5 and 6;
   Article VI, Section 3.
   * See the current revised constitution and by-laws printed in this edition.
2. It was moved, seconded and approved to add the notation; "Revised and Approved, June 20, 1979."
3. A motion was made, seconded and passed to set annual dues at $5 for regular members and $3 for student members.
4. A special thanks was extended to Alan Bird for an outstanding job on a tedious task by Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council membership. President Delphandahl, also extended his appreciation to Alan Bird.

1980 Annual NAEC Meeting

Ray Farrish extended an invitation to the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council members to come to Connecticut. The meetings will be held on the Connecticut College Campus in New London, Connecticut, June 16-18, 1980. He reported that Joseph Diamond and Don Stitts will be working on arrangements for the Committee.

1981 Annual NAEC Meeting

Virgil Norton extended an invitation to Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council members to come to University of Maryland June 22-24, 1981.

Resolutions

The resolutions committee consisted of Virgil Norton and John Foster, Chairman. Chairman Foster presented the following resolutions:

1. That the NAEC express our enthusiastic appreciation to Ray Smith, Chairman of the Department of Agricultural and Food Economics at the University of Delaware and to members of his faculty, staff and their wives for their efforts in making this annual meeting professionally and personally enjoyable. Both the facilities provided and the effec-

tive planning contributed to the stimulating and problem free experience.

2. That we applaud the contributions of retiring President Johannes Delphandahl and President-elect Dale Colyer for their efforts on behalf of the association during the past year and for their development of our annual meeting program.

3. That we extend our gratitude to Mary Templeton, Secretary-Treasurer, Dale Colyer, Editor of our Journal and Robert Christensen, Chairman of our Awards Committee for their contributions to the welfare of the NAEC.

4. That we extend special thanks to the by-laws committee of Alan Bird, Jerry Cole and Sidney Ishee for their efforts in establishing revisions of the by-laws which provide for both organizations stability and flexibility to respond to change in the future.

5. That we recognize the efforts of Bernard Stanton in furthering, thru his presidency of the National Association, the professional status of Agricultural Economics.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the resolution.

Nominating Committee

Gerald Cole, Ray Farrish and Bruce Lindsay, members of the Nominating Committee proposed the following nominees for President-elect: Billy Lessely, Maryland and Robert Koch, New Jersey. Robert Koch was elected President-elect.

Presidents Message

President Johannes Delphandahl gave the following message:

It has become a tradition that the President of NAEC makes a few general remarks at the business meeting of NAEC. Generally, these comments are related to some professional aspects unique to the NAEC and the profession of agricultural economists, including resource economists.

During the past five years, the NAEC has achieved significant recognition due to the efforts of the past presidents, the Executive Committee, but far more importantly, through the contribution of our members to teaching, research, and extension programs. Our journal is now considered a refereed professional publication. It is recognized not only in the Northeast, but also in other parts of the United States. We, the NAEC are now considered equal regional "partners" to the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) not in terms of members, but by the quality of our professional contribution. The NAEC members should be indeed very proud of this recognition.

As a group of professionals, however, we face serious challenges during the decade of the 1980's. These are, in my judgement, the most important challenges:

1. The rising real cost of energy and the temporary disequilibrium of the supply of energy resources will have a significant impact on the socio-economic factors influencing all spheres of our lives.

How should our programs--teaching, research, extension reflect these changes? I hypothesize that our teaching and extension programs already changed but the research programs seemed in my judgement, to be concen-

trated in the traditional fields of inquiry. Should we be working on the elasticity of demand for gasoline or the broad field of energy supply?

2. A second important question seems to be related to the impact of the population migration.

I realize that our colleagues are working on this question (NE119) but should the work not be expanded?

3. A third question is related to the future of agricultural production in the Northeast.

Many states established food and farm land study commissions. Should our research program not be altered in order to generate answers to questions related to the rate of substitution of energy for land and labor? What are the economic conditions which make it feasible to begin producing crops in the Northeast which we are currently "importing" from other regions?

A few observations about the teaching programs:

Although the teaching programs attracted a large number of students--are we not complaining of the large teaching loads! The enrollment will decline due to the declining number of students entering the universities.

What program changes should be made to respond to the declining enrollment?

Should the NAEC not take the leadership to foster cooperation among the departments of Agricultural Economics to synchronize the teaching programs? I realize that some cooperation is already existing. We should attempt a more formal arrangement under which a greater degree of specialization relative to the teaching program could occur.

A related subject is the question of accreditation. I am very much aware of the diverse opinion on this subject--but if we look--some of us with envy--at the teaching loads and student-teacher ratios of our colleagues in the Business Administration Colleges--then it becomes clear that the accreditation requirements are beneficial and supportive during negotiation with the University Administration relative to obtaining additional teaching resources.

Should, therefore, the NAEC Executive Committee not take the leadership to begin work on an accreditation process? Should we not set minimum standards for B.S. degree curricula?

One additional observation is related to the level of funding of our research programs and the increased emphasis on competitive grants. Since the agricultural economics departments in the Northeast are relatively small in terms of numbers, except Penn State and Cornell, a formal cooperation between departments might be beneficial. The combined staff of several departments would provide the critical mass to obtain a competitive grant.

Summary

I made an attempt to briefly describe some problem areas in teaching and research. I very much hope the my remarks provided the NAEC Executive Committee and the NAEC membership with some "food for thought."

May I close with a personal note.

I would like to thank the Program Committee: President-Elect Dale Colyer, Mary Templeton, and Jerry Cole for arranging such an excellent program. I also would like to thank the members of the Executive Commit-

tee for their cooperation and support. I very much thank the members of NAEC for their support of our organization. I very much appreciate to have had the opportunity to serve as president of NAEC.

Special thanks are due to the local arrangements committee under the leadership of Ray Smith and Jerry Cole, and the Agricultural Economics staff, including the spouses, for their hospitality and effort to make a stay here at the University of Delaware a memorable occasion.

Johannes Delphandahl turned the meeting over to the new President Dale Colyer who invited everyone to the 1979 meeting at the Connecticut College.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary E. Templeton
Secretary-Treasurer