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EDITOR'S PREFACE

With this issue, my term as Editor comes to an end. It has been a challenging and exciting three years. In my judgment, the Journal has visibly improved during the three years that I have been Editor. However, the real credit for that improvement goes to the Editorial Board and the members of the Council. Each member of the Editorial Board served with distinction. Each was willing to serve and did so with enthusiasm. Furthermore, I am pleased to say that no one wanted to relinquish his place on the Editorial Board, but rather was willing to serve for a full three year period. Frank Goode, Alden Manchester and Leslie Small rotate off the Board with this issue. These three individuals were the first to go through a complete three year term under our new rotating appointment. In my opinion they have earned a well deserved rest. (Although I must confess, they don't look any more tired now than they did three years ago.)

Those of you who attended the meetings at Rutgers are aware that the character of the Journal is changing. Our new policy will be that all Journal articles will be reviewed prior to publication. There will no longer be a proceedings issue as there has been in the past. It may take a while for the membership and the organization to adjust to this slightly changed procedure. I believe that the needs of the organization will be better met by this new policy. The Program Committee will have greater flexibility in developing a well-rounded and thought provoking program for the annual meetings. By the same token, a thorough review without a time deadline will assure that the articles which appear in print will be ones of which all of us can be proud.

Due to technical problems, it was not possible to publish all of the material that was presented at the annual meetings at Rutgers. Consequently, eight articles have been held over from the Fall, 1983 issue and will be published in the Spring, 1984 issue. Cleve Willis, as the new Editor, has graciously agreed to help make this transition possible. I greatly appreciate his assistance in this. The articles that have been held over are those in the sessions on Marketing and Natural Resources and are identified on page 113

I know that Cleve Willis, as the new Editor,

will be able to continue the development and maturing of the Journal that we have seen in the last few years. This issue has an example of that development and maturing process. On pages 19 to 30 is a paper presented by Joe Havlicek at the meetings in June. In that paper, Joe presents an analysis with regard to research funding and an estimate of spillover effects. After that paper was presented, but before the proceedings issue appeared in print, Joe and his co-authors reconsidered their work and revised it extensively. One choice was to revise the article and publish it as if it were the initial, as well as final, thought. As Editor, I requested that Joe not do this, but rather that a second article be presented. Consequently, you have in this issue on pages 127 to 130, a further thought developed by Joe and his co-authors. The reason for presenting the material this way rather than revising the initial paper was to demonstrate to all of the members of the profession the vitality of the literature in our discipline. There are no final words. The literature is alive. It continues to grow, develop and change. As we learn, we formulate our questions more clearly. We understand better the impacts and changes that are going on around us. Our discipline, our literature, our tools and techniques are alive and growing. We should never permit what happens in the classroom to stagnate. Our students should be reading the Journal as much as our faculty members are.

When I became editor, there were several issues of the Journal that had not been printed. Furthermore, our outstanding debts greatly exceeded our ability to pay. Now the Journal is current. We have a bank balance of approximately \$6,000 and a professional association whose membership shows a greater interest than I have ever seen in the past. It is the members themselves who have made this change. As for the contribution I have made, it would not have been possible without the support of the Director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. W. L. Harris, and the equally crucial support of the Assistant Editor, Mrs. Virginia Smith. It is due to the support and encouragement of these two individuals that I have been able to live up to my responsibility as Editor of the Journal. I sincerely hope that Cleve Willis receives as much support and encouragement as I have.