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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
NORTHEASTERN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS COUNCIL
JUNE 21, 1983

The annual Business Meeting of the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council was called to order at 3:00 p.m. at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, by President Frank Goode.

The minutes of the June 23, 1982, Annual Meeting were approved as printed and distributed to membership in 1982 Fall Proceedings Issue of the Journal of the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Mary Templeton, reported a balance of \$6,209.00 (\$6,166.79 savings plus \$42.21 checking) as of June 16, 1983, with income of \$9,187.31 (membership dues and Journal page charges), and total expenses, \$5,476.15 (printing charges \$5,206.42 plus \$150.00 M.S. Thesis Award plus \$119.73 duplicating and checking service expense). The Treasurer noted that the Council was in a much better financial position than last year at this time.

Auditor's Report

Dennis Smith presented the auditors' report. The financial report was found to be a true and accurate account of the items shown in the accounting records and bank statements of Mary E. Templeton, Treasurer for the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council as of June 16, 1983. The Auditors were Dennis Smith, Chairman, and Kenneth Hock. It was moved and seconded to accept the auditors' report as submitted.

Membership Report

Mary Templeton, Secretary-Treasurer presented the following membership report as of June 21, 1983: 326 regular members, 36 student members, 28 Honorary Life members and 7 Distinguished members for a total membership of 380. The Secretary-Treasurer noted that the organization experienced a 17 percent decrease in membership over the 1981-82 membership.

Editor's Report

Filmore Bender, Editor, reported that the Spring Issue of the Journal has been distributed and he thanked the editorial board for providing good standards. A smooth transition is being made to the incoming editor, Cleve Willis, who announced that he has already received five articles for the Spring, 1984, issue.

Nominations Committee Report

The Nominations Committee, Malcolm Bevins, Chairman, Vermont; John Foster, Massachusetts; and Kenneth McIntosh, West Virginia, placed names of Daymon Thatch, New Jersey, and Virgil Norton, Maryland, in nomination for the office of President-elect. President Goode called for nominations from the floor. There being no nominations from the floor, it was moved and seconded that nominations be closed.

President Goode appointed the nomination committee to serve as tellers for the election. In a secret ballot, Virgil Norton, University of

Maryland, was elected President-elect.

Honorary Life Membership Award

Malcolm Bevins, Awards Committee Chairman, presented Honorary Life Member Awards to Irving Fellows and Homer Metzler for their dedicated service to the affairs of the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council.

Master's Awards

In the absence of Neil Pelsue, Jr., Chairman of the NAEC Masters Thesis Awards Committee, President Goode gave the committee report. There were a total of 14 theses from nine schools entered. The Committee was very pleased with the overall quality of the theses in this year's competition. The Awards to be presented at the Annual Meeting are as follows:

NAEC Outstanding Masters Thesis (One Award)

Author: Edward J. Richardson; Title: "The Effect of a Change in the Size at First Capture in the Rhode Island Shore Lobster Fishery: A Bioeconomic Analysis;" School: University of Rhode Island; Advisor: John M. Gates.

NAEC Masters Thesis Award of Merit (Three Awards)

Author: Paul L. Fackler; Title: "Forecasting Maine Potatoes Futures;" School: University of Maine; Advisor: Alan Kezis.

Author: Terrence Sheales; Title: "Inter-temporal Basis Behavior on the Chicago Wheat Future Market;" School: Cornell University; Advisor: William Tomek.

Author: Dona C. Zimmerman; Title: "Farm Planning Models Including the Use of Sewage Sludge on Pennsylvania Dairy Farms;" Advisor: Donald J. Epp.

Proposed Amendment to NAEC By-laws

Steve Reiling proposed a change in Article III, Section 5, Paragraph (e) to be added to the by-laws. After considerable discussion the following amendment was approved:

(e) Selected Papers and Symposia Committee

The Selected Papers and Symposia shall be comprised of a chairman appointed to a one-year term by the President-Elect, and eighteen at-large members of the Council. Each year the President-Elect will appoint nine members to the Committee for a two-year term. The President-Elect shall also appoint additional persons as necessary to replace Committee members who can not complete the second year of their term. (To initiate the Committee, the President and President-Elect each shall appoint nine members; those appointed by the President will serve a one-year term.)

The Committee shall review all papers post-marked by the deadline of March 15th (or an alternative date specified by the President-Elect) and select those papers to be presented at the council meeting. Authors will be notified of the Committee's decision by May 15th (or an alternative date specified by the President-Elect). The Committee shall have two options for each paper submitted:

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1. Accept for presentation;
2. Reject the paper.

The Committee shall also review symposia proposals and select those to be presented at the Council meeting. Symposia topics must be post-marked by April 15th (or an alternative date specified by the President-Elect) to be considered by the Committee. Symposia leaders will be informed of the decision of the Committee by May 15th (or an alternative date specified by the President-Elect). The Committee shall also have the option to formulate symposia based on papers submitted for the selected papers program.

The Committee Chairperson shall assist the President-Elect and other members of the Program Committee in formulating the selected papers and symposia components of the Council meeting program.

Membership Participation Committee (Special)

Gerald Cole, Chairman ad hoc Membership Participation Committee, announced that a symposium would be held immediately following the business meeting to discuss alternative methods of increasing membership participation. The Symposium will discuss the following:

- a. Change in the composition of the Executive Committee (both elected and appointed members).
- b. Reduce the number of members on the Executive Committee
- c. Propose more active involvement of students (undergraduate paper sessions).
- d. Establish a newsletter
- e. Renew communication with the Canadian Agricultural Economist.

President Goode encouraged all members to attend.

Special Committee

President Goode appointed a Special Committee (Cleve Willis, Chairman; Filmore Bender, Dale Colyer, J. Elterich and Edmund Jansen) to make a recommendation to the fall Executive Committee on a name change for the Journal and the Council.

Announcements

Frank Goode announced that he had been contacted by George Frick on the disposition of \$700-\$800 bank account under the name of New England Institute of Cooperatives which has been inactive since 1955. The monies are to be used for research on cooperatives. President Goode will investigate the feasibility of the transfer of funds.

Newsletter

Lee Day proposed that a semi-annual NAEC Newsletter be instituted. After considerable discussion the suggestion was made that news notes be included in the Journal.

1984 Meetings

Olan Forker invited the Council to Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, August 5-8, 1984, for the joint meeting of the American Agricultural Economics Association and the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council. He guaranteed beautiful weather on the Cayuga Lake.

President Goode reported that NAEC would

have one or two sessions with a focus on the Northeast - a contributed papers and symposium session.

Resolutions Committee Report

Resolutions Committee consisted of Filmore Bender and Dale Colyer. Dale Colyer moved that the following resolutions be adopted by the Council:

Whereas, good fellowship, good food, and a stimulating intellectual environment are an integral part of our professional society, and

Whereas, nothing could dampen the spirits of our hosts,

Therefore, be it hereby resolved that the Northeastern Agricultural Economic Council expresses its gratitude to the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing of Cook College, Rutgers University, for an outstanding job of preparing for and handling the 1983 Annual Meeting. The Council extends a special thanks to Ned Lippman of the Cook College Short Course Program for his part in facilitating the conduct of the meeting by providing excellent facilities and by efficiently handling our needs.

The Council further extends its appreciation for and congratulations to Lee Day for the development of an excellent program. Another special thanks is extended to Steve Hastings and the Contributed Papers Committee for the yeoman job of evaluating the papers. We also commend Frank Goode for effectively conducting these meetings and for providing strong leadership that has further strengthened our organization. As Filmore Bender leaves the editorship after the current proceedings issue, we recognize and commend him and the editorial board for a truly outstanding job of handling that very important task for the Council.

Finally, we are most thankful to Bob Koch for being an ideal host and for providing a sunny environment for this entire conference.

Be it further resolved that copies of these resolutions be sent to President Bloustein, Dean Nieswand and other appropriate administrators.

President Goode's Remarks

The tradition is that the outgoing President make a few remarks about the status of the Council. The first step in preparing these remarks was to reread the comments Mal Bevins made in observing the tradition a year ago. In his comments, Mal noted the changes in the Council since its beginning as the New England Council. He suggests that the prestige of the Council and the quality of its activities had improved substantially as a result of changes made in the 1960's.

I totally agree with Mal's assessment of the progress of our organization and therefore decided to focus my comment on the future. We are in the midst of a process to restructure our organization. The changes currently taking place may have even more impact on our organization than the changes in the 1960's. This year the membership voted to establish a standing committee to review papers to be presented at the annual meeting. Since this task has been handled on an ad hoc basis in the past, this change may profoundly affect the program at the annual meeting.

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The membership also voted to discontinue the practice of publishing most if not all of the selected papers presented at the annual meeting. This change will likely decrease the quality (and perhaps the quantity) of papers presented at the annual meeting. For the past several years the majority of the papers at our annual meeting would have been accepted for presentation by the National Association. Authors now face the option of presenting their papers at the National or Northeastern meeting and it would be reasonable for many to select the National alternative.

Another impact of the decision not to publish presented papers is the editor now explicitly controls the contents of both issues of the Journal. This may not be a move in the right direction, but it is certainly a change from past practice.

Several other changes are being actively considered. One of these is to change the name of the organization so that it is compatible with the American Association. Another change being considered is to elect part or all of the members of the Executive Committee. Finally, the suggestion has been made that we elect officers by mailed ballots rather than balloting at the annual meeting.

All of these changes can be supported with good arguments and I have encouraged many of these changes. However, all of these changes have one thing in common. Specifically, each change duplicates the procedures used by the American Agricultural Economics Association. If we replicate the organization structure of the National Association, will we not become a mini or micro National Association? Is that what we

want our organization to be?

Let me outline the worst case scenario. Elections by mail ballot become a popularity contest rather than selecting officers who have demonstrated an interest in the organization. The quality of the papers presented at the annual meetings degenerates to the point that the best that can be said of the meetings is that they are an enjoyable social gathering. Thus, the major professional activity of the Council will be the Journal. Now suppose we get an editor who has a narrow view (subject matter and/or methodology) regarding what should be published. This would render the Journal largely irrelevant both as an outlet for research and as a reference source for major groups of our membership. I do not predict this will happen, but it is a possibility because all of these complaints are frequently registered about the National Association.

The question is, can't we be more ingenious than to duplicate the organizational structure of the National Association? Are there not gaps in the professional activities of the National Association that we can fill? I think the answers to these questions are affirmative. I do not have a grand design for the organization. I only suggest that we keep these questions in mind as we evaluate changes we have made and those we are contemplating.

President Goode turned the gavel over to President-Elect Lee Day. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Mary Templeton
Secretary-Treasurer

SELECTED PAPERS AND SYMPOSIA COMMITTEE

Dr. Steven E. Hastings, Chairman
University of Delaware

Dr. Boris E. Bravo-Ureta, Vice Chairman
University of Connecticut

Dr. Roger Beck
Rutgers University

Dr. Ian Hardie
University of Maryland

Dr. Albert E. Luloff
University of New Hampshire

Dr. Harry Brautigam
University of Delaware

Dr. Fred K. Hines
USDA

Dr. Tim Phipps
University of Maryland

Dr. Robert Burton, Jr.
West Virginia University

Dr. Richard King
University of Maine

Dr. Thomas Stevens
University of Massachusetts

Dr. Frederick Buttel
Cornell University

Dr. Tsoung Chao Lee
University of Connecticut

Dr. D. A. Watkins
University of Maine

Dr. James Dunn
Pennsylvania State University

Dr. Bruce Lindsay
University of New Hampshire

Dr. William P. Whelan
Rutgers University

Dr. Lana Hall
Cornell University

Dr. David Wilcock
University of Massachusetts