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Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING NORTHEASTERN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS COUNCIL JUNE 18, 1980

The annual business meeting of the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council was called to order at 8:30 a.m. at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut by President Dale Colyer.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

The minutes of the June 20, 1979 Annual Meeting were moved in principle as they will be printed in the Journal. The Treasurer's report as of June 3, 1980 reported a balance of \$1,056.50 with income of \$2,971.86 (individual and institutional dues \$1,236.00; student member dues \$189.00, Journal sales \$27.50; 1979 Spring Journal Page Charges \$1,425.00 and interest on savings account \$94.36), and total expenses \$3,195.50 (Typesetting 1979 Spring Journal \$3,180.60, service charges on checking account \$14.00, exchange rate and adjustment .90).

Auditor's Report

Kenneth D. McIntosh presented the auditor's report as follows: 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 3, 1980. The Auditors K. D. McIntosh and P. E. Nesselroad note that on June 3, 1980 there were circumstances which cannot be fairly evaluated, but which bear some relationship to the financial standing of the NAEC.

First, there are issues of the Journal of NAEC that have not been published and paid for. The charges for the 1979 Spring issue are incomplete, and total charges for the proceeding issue of 1979 and Spring issue of 1980 are not known.

Second, the total revenue from page charges is not known, and an estimate is not available to the auditors.

Membership Report

Mary Templeton, Secretary-Treasurer presented the following membership report as of June 1, 1980: 185 regular members, 46 student members, 18 Honorary Life Members and 3 Distinguished members for a total membership of 252. She reported an increase in membership since last year of 41 members of which 31 were student members.

Editor's Report

Dale Colyer, editor, apologized for the delays in printing the Journal. He indicated that he had encountered problems with the University printer which were uncontrollable and the 1979 Spring Journal should be mailed soon. The 1979 Proceedings issue will be printed on campus which should reduce the printing costs. The editor reported that there was an increase in the number of articles submitted for the 1980 Spring Journal; however, the acceptance rate was only 55-60 percent less than the usual 75 percent acceptance.

Editor Colyer announced that a new editor had been appointed from the University of Maryland—Filmore Bender. He will assume the editorship with 1981 Spring issue.

Awards Committee

Chairman Daymon Thatch presented criteria and a committee report on the methodology of the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council in establishing the first Master Thesis Awards as follows:

1. That the Executive Committee take the necessary formal steps to initiate a Master's Awards Program.
2. Initially, we recommend the organization start only with a Master's award with the recognition that later, the Awards Committee might consider an undergraduate and Ph.D. award.
3. That the subject matter of Agricultural Economics be interpreted in a broad sense to include—food, natural resources, and rural as well as agri-business problems.
4. That each year one or two cash awards of perhaps \$175 and \$100 be made as well as one or two honorable mention awards.
5. That abstracts from all thesis awards as well as biographical data on recipients be published in the *NAEC Journal*.
6. That specific limitations be placed on acceptable time periods, number of possible theses and form to be submitted. For example: for time periods, perhaps only theses completed 12 months prior to cut-off date; or in terms of number, perhaps on a department basis, one submitted thesis for each 5 completed theses of fractions thereof. (Perhaps a maximum of 15 theses per year on some equitable basis).
7. That either the current NAEC Awards Committee be expanded (perhaps by one or two members), or that a new Master's Awards Committee of three persons be created. The expanded or new committee should be charged with working out the details and administering the new program. Members could serve for a rotating three-year term.

It is envisioned that between now and the 1981 annual meetings that this committee develop specific details of such a program. For example:

- a. A weighing system to score theses or abstracts.
- b. Specific dates of submission notification, decision, etc.
- c. Who should submit—department, advisor, etc.
- d. Specific form to be submitted.
- e. Data required for journal.
- f. What types of limitations are needed.

Starting in 1982, at the annual meeting, this committee would be charged with making the first Master thesis awards.

A motion was made and seconded and passed for the Awards Committee to draft a by-laws change to incorporate the Master's Thesis Award to be presented at the November Executive Committee meeting.

Honorary Life Member Award

Daymon Thatch called on Alan Bird, a member of the Awards Committee, who presented the Honorary Life Member Award to George Rogers.

Distinguished Member Award

Kenneth D. McIntosh presented the Distinguished Member Award to Alan Bird for his outstanding service to Council in chairing the by-law revisions—establishing criteria for Honorary Life and Distinguished Member Awards, his efforts to promote membership, and other contributions to the Council and profession of agricultural economics.

Department Chairmen

Department Chairmen gave reports on personnel and fiscal changes in their respective departments in the Northeast.

Nominations Committee Report

The Nominations Committee, Chaired by Johannes Delphendahl, placed the names of Malcolm Bevins (Maine) and Cleve Willis (Massachusetts) in nomination for the office of president-elect. President Colyer called for nominations from the floor. Having none, it was moved and seconded that nominations be closed. In a secret ballot, Malcolm Bevins was selected as president-elect.

Resolutions Committee Report

Robert Christensen moved that the following resolutions be adopted by the Council:

1. Be it resolved that the official minutes of the meeting show that the membership of the NAEC expresses its sincere appreciation to President-Elect Robert Koch for developing an outstanding program and to the yeoman service provided by David Storey and the many anonymous reviewers in the selection of the excellent contributed papers.
2. Be it resolved that the Secretary of the NAEC be instructed to express in writing to President DiBiaggio our thanks for the pleasant and polite hospitality of the staff and faculty of the University of Connecticut in the provision of the conference facilities and services of a quality and in a manner conducive to professional and personal interchange of the highest order. Be it further resolved that the letter include special thanks for President DiBiaggio's excellent and thought provoking remarks that provided the tone and perspective for the ensuing sessions.
3. Be it resolved that the official minutes of this annual meeting show that the members of the NAEC express their deepest and sincerest thanks for the outstanding efforts of our colleagues and hosts at the University of Connecticut. Special mention is given to Dr. Raymond Farrish, chairman of arrangements, and to all of the members of the Department of Agricultural Economics (faculty, staff and graduate students), in making this meeting a success. Their hospitality, helpfulness and concern for the comfort and enjoyment of those attending made the annual meeting an exceptionally satisfying experience.
4. Be it resolved that we express special thanks to Dale Colyer for dedicated services to the Council as President-Elect, President, and Editor these past three years.

Seconded be Alan Forker and approved unanimously.

President Colyer extended appreciation to faculty of the University of Connecticut for a beautifully planned and exciting meeting and the pleasant hospitality extended to the Council and special thanks for President DiBiaggio's remarks.

President Colyer's Remarks

President Colyer presented the following remarks:

Rather than reflect on this Council and its affairs as I might with my swansong as both president and editor, I want to take this opportunity to discuss once more the theme of this year's annual meeting, 'New Directions for the 80s.' My views have been strongly affected recently by receipt of the preliminary 1978 Census of Agriculture for West Virginia.

We have been aware since the early 70's that the long term population drain in many rural areas had been reversed. In the mid 60's, a colleague of mine at Missouri predicted that reversal—some big names in the development field, including the editor of AJAE, ridiculed his conclusions and the research that led to them. Nonetheless, he was right and we have observed population increases in many rural areas of the Northeast and elsewhere. There have been reductions in the populations of many large cities.

In West Virginia, the reduction in farm numbers and to an extent land in farms, had been occurring even more rapidly than the reduction of rural population. This downtrend continued through

the 1974 Census of Agriculture. However, the preliminary data for the State indicates that between 1974 and 1978, farm numbers and land in farms both increased. There was an increase in farm numbers of nearly 4,000 and of 400,000 acres of land in farms. A large part of the increase, however, is due to the procedures of the Bureau of the Census. A follow-up sample survey accounted for all except about 600 of the change in numbers and 45,000 of the increased acres. However, there was still an increase after allowing for the follow-up results. Furthermore, there were increases in nearly 43 of the individual counties and the follow-up sample was not used to adjust the county totals.

While it is far too early to predict if this development is more than a temporary observation, I personally think it is another indication of the new directions that will be affecting the Northeast with increasingly important impacts. This probably is due largely to the back to the land movement, the desire of more and more people to escape from living in large cities or in combination with less outmigration from the rural areas, of not being forced to move out of their native rural areas to find employment.

What all this means to our profession is that there are going to be many more rural people out there; they are not all farmers and most of the farmers are not the big agribusiness commercial operations that dominate in the West and Midwest (and that Heady, *et al.* still see as characterizing American and indeed world agriculture today and tomorrow).

It means that we will have a large clientele with many and varied problems. It means that our research agenda will be full to point of overflowing, with not only the traditional types of issues, but even more so with non-traditional. When we add the energy, transportation and related tasks to our farm management, marketing, resource economics and rural development jobs, we will indeed be faced with a major task.

We in the Northeast *recognized early* these trends and developments. We have diversified our research—even our institutional names and organizations—to take on the tasks needed in research, extension, and teaching to help our states and the region adapt to the new directions. Despite a continued squeeze on the resources most of us have to work with, I have every confidence we will meet the challenge of these new directions; that we will be there with needed research results, needed extension programs, and instructional programs adequately modified to train students to meet the additional challenges posed by the changes we shall face with new lifestyles, a new energy structure, and most importantly, for us as agricultural economists and rural sociologists, a revived and growing rural economy in the region. Our future is bright if we accept willingly the many challenges that the 'New Directions of the 80s' offer us. We should accept these challenges as what they are—opportunities.

Adjournment

President Colyer turned the gavel over to President-Elect R. Koch and the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by

Mary Templeton
Secretary-Treasurer