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MINUTES OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
NORTHEASTERN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS COUNCIL
June 17, 1981

The annual business meeting of the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council was called to order at 8:30 a.m. at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Campus by President Robert Koch.

President Koch asked for a moment of silence in memory of the deceased members--as follows: James R. Bowring, A.H. Lindsay, Sidney Ishee, Edmund Perregaux and Frank Pearson.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

The minutes of the June 18, 1980, Annual Meeting were moved in principle as they will be printed in the Journal. The Treasurer's report as of June 3, 1981, reported a balance of \$3,281.51 with income of \$3,567.57 (individual and institutional dues \$1,527.00; student member dues \$138.00, Journal sales \$25.00; 1979-1980 Spring Journal page charges \$1,560.00; interest on savings account \$73.13 and a refund Connecticut meeting \$253.44), and total expenses \$1,351.56 (refunds \$12.50; service charges on checking account \$24.00; bad checks \$13.00, exchange rate adjustments \$1.04; typesetting and printing charges for 1980 and 1981 Spring issues \$1,301.02).

Membership Report

Mary Templeton, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the following membership report as of June 1, 1981: 275 regular members, 61 student members, 27 Honorary Life Members and 4 Distinguished members for a total membership of 367. She reported an increase in membership since last year of 63 members.

Auditor's Report

Robert Jack presented the auditors 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, 1981. It was moved and seconded to accept the auditor's report as submitted.

Editor's Report

Filmore Bender, editor, formally thanked members who submitted articles and his editorial board which consisted of Henry Bahn, David Blandford, Joachim Elterich, Frank Goode, Marvin Kottke, Alden Manchester, Neil Pelsue, and Leslie Small. The editor announced he would rotate the editorial board, with 3 members on and 3 members going off each year. He also thanked Virgil Norton for his support and Sandra Hassett for her assistance in the publishing of the 1981 Spring issue which has been distributed, and announced he had received four articles for the 1982 Spring issue. The call for Spring papers deadline is November, 1981.

Dale Colyer (past editor) announced that the 1979 and 1980 Proceedings issues would be distributed during the summer and that he had received the 1979 page proof and the galley proof

for the 1980 issue.

Awards Committee Report

Robert Christensen, Chairman of the Distinguished Member and Honorary Life Member Awards Committee presented a proposed change in the Constitution and by-laws to establish an additional set of awards recognizing outstanding theses by Master's students in institutions included among the membership of the NAEC. A motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously to amend Article III, Section 5, Standing Committees, as follows:

Article III, Section 5. Standing Committees

"The following Standing Committees shall function on a continuing basis and shall be constituted, appointed and empowered as prescribed below:

(a) Awards Committees

- i. The Distinguished and Life Member Awards Committee. This committee shall be comprised of three members. The President shall appoint one member each year, except that he may appoint more when a member is unable to complete his or her term. Each member shall serve three years except in cases where appointment has been to an unexpired term. The senior member shall serve as Chairman. This committee shall recommend to the Executive Committee all members to receive the Distinguished Member Award and the Honorary Life Member Award.
- ii. The Master's Thesis Awards Committee This committee shall be comprised of three members. The President shall appoint one member each year except that he may appoint more when a member is unable to complete his or her term. Each member shall serve three years except in cases where appointment has been to an unexpired term. The senior member shall serve as Chairman. This committee shall recommend to the Executive Committee the recipient of the NAEC Outstanding Master's Thesis Award and also recipients of the NAEC Master's Thesis Award of Merit.

Student Section

Andrea Ray, student, University of Maryland, presented the following proposal:

The undergraduate students of the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland, propose that a Student Section of the Northeastern Agricultural

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Economics Council (NAEC-SS) be recognized.

The president pointed out that this would be the first student organization at a regional meeting. After considerable discussion and interest in the proposal, President Koch appointed an ad hoc committee to study and evaluate establishing a student section and to present a report to the executive committee in the fall. The President appointed the following members to the ad hoc committee: Alan Bird, Chairman, Virgil Norton and John Malone.

Resolutions Committee Report

Dale Colyer moved the following resolution be adopted by the Council:

The members of the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council would like to express their sincere appreciation to the Faculty, students, and staff of the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland, for hosting the 1981 meeting.

We are especially cognizant of the efforts that resulted in the efficient and well organized local arrangements. These were due to the support and dedication by the Department Chairman, Virgil Norton, the General Chairman, Harold Smith, as well as all the committee chairmen and members who worked so diligently to make the meetings a success.

The Membership also wants to recognize and thank the fine welcomes by Chancellor Dorsey and Dean Brown. The excellent facilities of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus contributed greatly to our comfort and gave us a nearly ideal setting for enjoying the proceedings.

We also recognize and appreciate the efforts of President-elect Bevins for planning a first-rate program, of President Koch for conducting the meeting in an efficient and timely manner, of Steve Reiling and Steve Skinner for screening and evaluating the contributed papers, of Bob Christensen and Alan Bird for presenting the Life and Distinguished Member Awards, and of all the participants so essential for a successful conference.

Finally, we want to thank Bill Lessley for providing us with very fine examples of Southern Hospitality, Southern Accent, and Southern Weather.

We hereby request that copies of these resolutions be forwarded by the President and Secretary to the appropriate Administrative Officers at both the College Park and Baltimore County Campuses of the University of Maryland.

Public Meetings on Economics and Statistics Programs

B. F. Stanton announced that the United States Department of Agriculture will hold public meetings June 23 and 24, 1981, to discuss priorities and possible cuts or redirections in its economics and statistics programs for fiscal years 1982 and 1983 that may be imposed by budget limitations. After considerable discussion by members of the Council and in view of the fact that published data by the Economics and Statis-

tics Service are fundamental sources of information for nearly all economic analyses of the food and agricultural sector made by both public and private agencies and individuals, the following resolution was proposed and adopted unanimously:

RESOLUTION

Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council

Whereas, The Assistant Secretary of Agriculture has asked for comments and recommendations at public meetings June 23 and 24 from people who use statistics, research and analyses from USDA's Economics and Statistics Service; and

Whereas, We agree with the spirit of his statement that "The Economics and Statistics Service needs to systematically assess its priorities to maintain the quality of its work in light of rising costs and tighter funding constraints;" and

Whereas, The international, national, state and regional statistics and economic analyses concerning food, agriculture and the rural sector of the economy, that are prepared and published by the staff of the Economics and Statistics Service, are fundamental sources of information for nearly all economic analyses of the food and agricultural sector made by both public and private agencies and individuals; and

Whereas, The quality, timeliness and ready availability of these economic statistics and analyses are crucial for informed decisions by government officials, policy makers, and individuals at every level and sector of the food industry and rural resource use;

Resolved, That the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council at its Annual meeting, June 17, 1981, at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus, go on record as recommending that:

- 1) Every effort be made to improve the quality and timeliness of our economic, rural and agricultural statistics and increased emphasis and priority be given to current work in improving such estimates as those for agricultural productivity, income, costs, prices, yields and supply-demand balances on which research, analyses, and operating decisions are made.
- 2) The substantial contribution of staff in the Economic and Statistics Service be recognized for providing the timely and unbiased rural, economic and agricultural statistics so widely used throughout this country and the rest of the world.
- 3) The analytical capability and data gathering capacity of the Economics and Statistics Service be enhanced as a first order priority so that wiser and more fully informed decisions can be made by all the users of these crucial data: farmers, government officials, businessmen, trade organizations, educational and research institutions, the wide range of people in the farm industry and the users of rural resources.

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Copies of the resolution will be sent to Dr. William Leshner, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and Dr. Kenneth R. Farrell, Administrator Economic Research Service.

Nomination Committee Report

The nomination committee, chaired by Dale Colyer, placed the names of George Casler (Cornell) and Frank M. Goode (The Pennsylvania State University) in nomination for the office of president-elect. President Koch called for nominations from the floor. Having none, it was moved and seconded that nominations be closed. In a secret ballot Frank M. Goode was selected as president-elect.

1982 Annual Meeting

Malcolm Bevins extended an invitation from the University of Vermont to NAEC to meet at Vermont June 21-23 — three sites are being considered: University Burlington, Johnson's College, Smugglers Notch. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously to accept the invitation.

1983 Annual Meeting

Robert Koch extended an invitation from Rutgers University to NAEC to meet at New Brunswick, New Jersey, June 20-22, 1983. The invitation was accepted.

President's Report

I have enjoyed serving as your president and as I said to my wife, Carol, on the way to the meeting, "It's been fun in the sun."

During the mid 1960's, I sensed an identity crisis in the American Agricultural Economics Association. Many departments changed their name and there was talk of substituting the word "applied" for "agricultural" in agricultural economics.

I sense an identity issue at these meetings. The theme of our sessions, "The Competitive Position of the Northeast," belies this as do the voiced concerns about the lack of new agricultural economics Ph.D.'s in the market place. Whatever direction our identity takes I charge the members of this council never to lose their pragmatic approach, and to maintain at the center of their interest the identification and solution of those problems associated with people and their agriculture, and in a broader sense their environment.

It is now my honor and great pleasure to introduce your new president, Professor Malcolm Bevins, University of Vermont.

The meeting was turned over to incoming President Malcolm Bevins. Malcolm Bevins thanked the session chairman, those persons who worked on the program and Mary Templeton, secretary-treasurer, for her support of the NAEC.

There being no other business or announcements, a motion was entertained to adjourn the annual business meeting.

Submitted by
Mary Templeton
Secretary-Treasurer