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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

L. T. Wallace, Chairman
National Agricultural Policy Committee

Welcome to the nineteenth National Agricultural Policy Conference here at Williamsburg, Virginia. Certainly, the facilities and atmosphere are most conducive for us to get down to our principal task: keeping current in our profession, assembling timely and pertinent information, and seeking continually more effective ways of communicating this knowledge and insight.

Our main professional educational objective is to increase the understanding of public problems and policies by the general citizenry, and increasingly, by specific individuals and groups responsible for making decisions about these problems and policies. By exchanging personal experiences and ideas here at the conference, we can increase our individual competencies and improve our chances of attaining this goal.

Guided and supported by the Farm Foundation, the National Committee has expanded its activities. It helped organize four regional public affairs committees, with which it maintains close contact. It also coordinates work with the Iowa Center for Agricultural and Economic Development and the Agricultural Policy Institute at North Carolina. But most important of all, the Committee and this conference have risen to their present high level of performance because of the people involved from all the states, the extension services, and the land-grant colleges. I would also like to draw attention to the continued interest, concern, and devotion of leaders in this field such as Carroll Bottum, Art Mauch, Ty Timm, and Joe Ackerman, who have all contributed immeasurably to the professional growth of many "youngsters" like myself as we come to grips with the challenges and frustrations which abound in this field.

And so, as we begin this week of listening, appraisal, and debate, I hope each of us takes it upon himself to stretch just that little bit more which is necessary to keep making our group and conference the best of its kind anywhere.

PART I Successful Extension Programs