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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Gene McMurtry, Chairman

National Public Policy Education Committee

For the first time the National Public Policy Education Conference is being held in the New England area, at Durham, New Hampshire. The New England Center for Continuing Education provides a distinctive setting for our twenty-second national conference. This conference program is also distinctive in bringing together speakers who will stimulate and challenge each of us to reach out and work in new areas. The ability to attract outstanding speakers is one sign of a healthy, progressive conference.

I would like to extend a very special welcome to the people who are attending this conference for the first time. Your association with individuals who are concerned about public policy education can be one of the most stimulating experiences of your professional career. I have found this to be so.

The program committee, in setting up this conference, had three broad objectives: (1) providing timely and useful information on public policy issues, (2) providing methodology for implementing educational programs, and (3) sharing ideas and meaningful experiences. Both the program committee and the national committee have been in the forefront in recognizing and defining important policy issues. Individual members attending this conference have provided counsel to national leaders responsible for legislation and implementation of meaningful public affairs programs. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the Farm Foundation for the guidance and financial support it has given to public policy education work in the United States.

The overall program includes a broad discussion of the current economic policy dilemmas, who will control American agriculture, rural development policy, property and land use policy, and higher education policy issues for rural development. A special session on sharing of program experiences includes four broad areas: state and local government concerns, environmental concerns, agricultural policy, and developmental concerns.

Another impact of these national conferences has been the publication of the proceedings. Most of you have a library of these proceedings. These proceedings go to every county agent in the United States and are widely used as reference sources in public policy education.

In sum, the past year was a very good one. Projections are always risky, but in view of our achievements thus far and the likelihood of future trends favorable to public policy education, I would predict continued success of the National Public Policy Conference.

PART I

*Current Economic
Policy*

