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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

*Wallace Barr, Chairman
National Public Policy Education Committee*

The National Public Policy Conference has reached a milestone; we are holding our Silver Anniversary Conference. An institution survives for twenty-five years mainly because you and your predecessors organized and conducted effective public policy programs.

The mission of the National Public Policy Education Committee is to provide a public policy education forum. The objective is to improve the economic and social well-being of all, with particular emphasis on those living in rural America. To achieve these ends we focus on economic analysis of emerging public issues and problems.

This conference has earned a reputation for excellence—in quality of program, speakers, participation, inspiration, and camaraderie. Participants are frequently heard to say, “This is the best conference I attend each year.”

The fifty-five evaluation forms returned by people that participated in the 1974 conference provided the program committee with the subject matter basis for this conference. The program includes, without exception, the priority issues so identified. These include the state of the economy and what it may be becoming, concentration of economic power, energy, transportation, world food concerns, and domestic food and farm policy issues. These suggestions provided a balance between current and emerging issues and between agriculture and general policy topics. The closing session features three nationally recognized extension leaders in an assessment of: (1) where we have been, (2) where we are, and (3) where we are going.

A technique that will be used in some conference sessions is presentations by two speakers with differing views on the same topic. Discussion periods of substantial length are included to encourage dialogue. We hope this arrangement will enhance the in-service training function of the conference.

The Silver Anniversary Conference has some special features. The program committee felt it appropriate to recognize the milestone by conducting a special banquet program, inviting “retirees” to attend the conference, and developing a statement of origin.

Recognition is extended to the subcommittee of Doyle Spurlock, Kenneth Oakleaf, and Henry Wadsworth for their efforts in making these arrangements.

Special commendation is extended to Doyle Spurlock for developing “The Birth of an Institution,” which documents the origin of the National Public Policy Education Committee and the guiding principles in policy education.

We welcome each of you—newcomers and old-timers—to the conference. We trust you will find the conference both enjoyable and beneficial.

PART I

The U.S. Economic System

