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# *Increasing Understanding of Public Problems and Policies - 1976*

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**THE U. S. POLITICAL ECONOMY**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY**

**IMPACTS OF JUDICIAL AND  
REGULATORY DECISION MAKING**

**ENERGY POLICY**

### **Subjects Discussed at Previous Conferences**

- 1960* Farm and Economic Policy • The Farm Problem—What Are the Choices? • Foreign Agricultural Trade Policy • The Land-Grant System and Public Affairs Education • Economic Growth
- 1961* Extension Education in Farm Policy • Economic Development • Marketing Agreements and Orders • International Trade and American Agriculture
- 1962* Foreign Policy Alternatives • Agricultural Policy Issues • Educational Policies and Methods • State and Local Taxation Policies
- 1963* Economic Development • Foreign Trade and Aid Issues • Evaluation of Agricultural Programs • Improving Policy Education Programs
- 1964* Education in a Democratic Society • Meeting Our International Obligations • Farm Policy Issues—1965 and Beyond • Extension Programs in Public Policy
- 1965* Emerging Foreign Policy Issues • New Directions: Trade, Aid, Farm Policy • Politics and Agricultural Policy • Human Resource Development Issues
- 1966* Meeting World Food Needs • The Food Marketing System • The Crisis in Cotton • Breaking the Poverty Cycle • Helping People Solve Public Problems
- 1967* Southeast Asia Policy Alternatives • Response to World Food Outlook • Policies for Commercial Agriculture • Minimum Family Income Proposals • Community Development Policy
- 1968* Extension Public Affairs Programs • United States' Role in World Affairs • Agricultural Policy Alternatives • Rural Poverty
- 1969* Successful Extension Programs • Inflation and Economic Growth • Competitive Structure for Agriculture • Foreign Trade and Development • The Changing Structure of American Society
- 1970* The University's Role in Public Policy Education • Policy Issues for the Seventies • Income Maintenance Programs • Environment and Quality of Life
- 1971* Who Makes National Policy? • Struggle for Control of the Food System • Where Will People Live and Work?
- 1972* Current Economic Policy • Who Will Control Agriculture? • Rural Development • Property Rights and Land Use • Policy Education
- 1973* Energy Policy Issues • Policy Education Methods • Land Use Policy • Agricultural and Foreign Trade • New Policy Perspectives and Dimensions
- 1974* State of the Economy • Food Policy • Energy Issues • Land Use Policy and Planning • Improving the Performance of Government
- 1975* The U.S. Economic System • Energy and Transportation • World Food Issues • Domestic Food and Farm Policy • Public Policy Education in Perspective

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## FOREWORD

This publication reports the major discussions of the 26th National Public Policy Conference, held Sept. 13-17, 1976, at Illinois Beach Lodge, Zion, Ill. One hundred three representatives from 45 states, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other interested agencies participated in the conference.

As in other years, the conference included speakers and subjects to stimulate and challenge extension workers responsible for public affairs programs to do a better job of policy education. The conference was planned by the National Public Policy Education Committee.

Specific objectives were: (1) to provide timely and useful information on public issues; (2) to explore different approaches in conducting public policy educational programs; and (3) to share ideas and experiences in policy education.

It is hoped that the increased professional competence of participants will result in improved educational programs. It is hoped too that this will lead ultimately to intelligent and responsible choices by citizens in solving public problems at both the local and national levels.

The purpose of this report is to extend the benefits of the conference beyond the participants. The report will be made available not only to state and county extension personnel but also to teachers, students, and others interested in increasing understanding of public policy issues.

The report was edited by a committee consisting of: Arley Waldo (Chairman), University of Minnesota; Harold D. Guither, University of Illinois; Ray Humbard, University of Tennessee; Fred Woods, Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; and W. Neill Schaller, Farm Foundation.

The Farm Foundation, following its policy of close cooperation with the state extension services, financed the instructional staff and the transportation of one individual from each state and publication of this report. The Sears-Roebuck Foundation also supported the publication.

Wallace Barr, *Chairman*  
National Public Policy Education Committee

R. J. Hildreth, *Managing Director*  
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## **PART I**

# **THE FUTURE OF THE U.S. POLITICAL ECONOMY**