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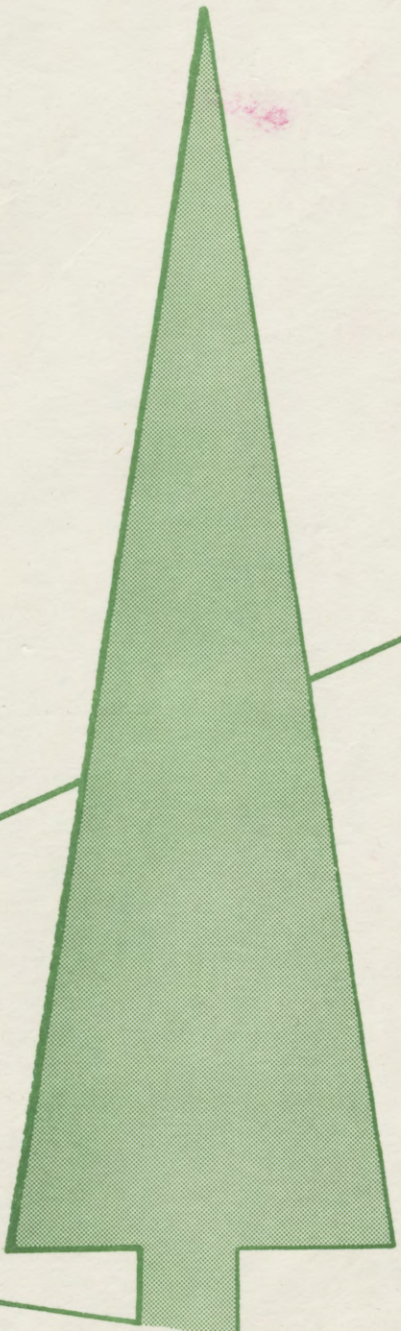
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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
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ADJUSTMENTS FACED BY AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS IN THE
CHANGING UNIVERSITY RESPONSIBILITY*

Dr. Edwin Young
President, University of Maine

Maine's untouched lakes and forest areas represent an opportunity to build economical models of land use.

Speaking on the adjustments faced by agricultural economists in the changing university responsibility, I stress the changing face of American agriculture and the growing need to turn some of our energies to natural resources.

How we preserve for the future is an important question. In Maine there are still many untouched lakes which might be used to develop models of the best way to preserve their natural resources. Too many lake shores have been divided arbitrarily into 100-foot lots, and their waters polluted.

"What people want now are the things they can't buy, like pure air and water and schools." These problems, which require decisions of a whole society, present greater problems than family decisions.

Cleaning up a polluted river is a nice economic problem since the decision may be relatively easy as to who is responsible for its pollution, but as economists we must also consider the economic consequences of taxing those responsible as well as considering who will reap the windfall of the improvement.

There is very little difference between an agricultural economist and an economist without an agricultural background. Agricultural economists are perhaps better fitted to work with developing countries, where agriculture will for many years be their most pressing problem.

Good economists with some sympathy for people with whom they work are important in these countries. Perhaps agricultural economists are better fitted to work in such a pattern.

*A resume of comments made by Dr. Young.