



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 1982 will be remembered for a long time. Double-digit inflation disappeared; however, an unemployment rate exceeding ten percent remained. The challenges and opportunities presented by these types of economic factors make it more important than ever before that we in the Food Distribution Research Society and our associates work more diligently to become more productive.

The papers presented at this year's meeting covered a wide range of topics, all pertinent to today's deep-rooted economic problems. Suggestions made by the organizations present, to work in more cooperative efforts, should not and must not go unheeded.

The theme of this year's annual meeting, "Food Trade Associations View The 1980's," brought together nearly all the leaders of the various food trade organizations. The free interchange of ideas during the first two days of the meeting was candid, informative and thought-provoking. I think you will agree with me when you have finished reading each of the presentations.

One significant fact became very clear to me as I listened and thought about the various subjects presented and discussed. The talent, foresightedness, ambition, and experience represented by the men and women presenting their ideas seemed unlimited. I wondered then and on several occasions since, how we can better organize ourselves to more productively use this seemingly limitless wealth of knowledge.

The Japanese have been extremely successful by fostering a national policy of working together. It makes me wonder how much more productive this country could be if we put aside petty political bickering, inflexibility between management and labor, and our overall feeling of complacency.

Our meeting this year was viewed by many participants as the strongest program FDRS has had in a number of years. We were indeed fortunate to have Jarvis Cain as the catalyst who brought together the diverse elements of the program. His committee consisted of Lewis Norwood, Gerry Peck, Doug Richardson, Harold Ricker, Carl Toensmeyer and Paul Canavan. A sincere "Thank You" to all for their superior efforts.

In assuming the office of the President, I set several goals for my term of office. First: make the William Applebaum Scholarship Award more meaningful. The program now underway will increase the scholarship award from \$500 to \$1,000 during the next two years. This year's award is \$750. The financial support of the membership and other individuals will provide the necessary funding. Second: to increase the number of "industry" members in the Society. Dr. Lynn Robbins, Vice-President of Membership will undertake an extensive and comprehensive campaign to achieve this goal. Third: to have FDRS become an active catalyst in bringing together various individuals and organizations to improve industry productivity. The basic approach will be system-wide projects with each segment of the distribution system designed to integrate with the other segments.

This year's annual meeting is scheduled for October 2-5 in Memphis, Tennessee. A portion of the program will be on the development of system-wide projects.

The responsibility of all organization presidents is to advance the product or purpose of their organization. If you feel, as I do, that greater cooperation between the organizations in the food distribution industry is essential, please let me know.

As the federal government reduces its role in many aspects of our industry, it will leave voids that must be filled from the private sector. Let it be the long term goal of the Society to act as the catalyst in bringing business and trade associations together for our mutual benefit.

Sincerely,


Paul F. Canavan
President