

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
State Advisory Committee Meeting

November 21, 1958

Room 400, State Department of Education Building, Sacramento, California

ROLL CALL

<u>Present</u>		<u>Absent</u>
<u>Advisory Committee</u>	<u>Bureau</u>	Fred Rohmert
Joseph Anderholt	Byron J. McMahon	
Carl Avrit	E. W. Everett	
Volney Craig, Jr.	George P. Couper	
Earl Blaser	J. Everett Walker	
Eugene Boone	R. H. Pedersen	
Robert Couchman	E. D. Graf	
Cyrille Faure	Elwood Juergenson	
Joe Russ		

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Boone at 9:00 a.m.

New Member

Mr. Eugene Boone introduced as the newly appointed member of the Committee, Mr. Earl Blaser, Live Oak. Mr. Blaser is a 1940 graduate of the University of California, Davis, and was for a time a vocational agriculture teacher. He is now a peach grower, an active member of the California Canning Peach Association, and president of the recently organized California Cannery and Growers, Inc.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee of March 21, 1958, at Santa Paula High School, Santa Paula, were summarized by Mr. Couchman.

Legislation

Mr. McMahon reviewed legislation affecting both education generally and vocational education in particular. He said that no formal action was taken on changing federal support of vocational education by the President's Federal-State Action Committee. He reported that federal people are urging that this proposal be considered again. Mr. Louis O. Rozsoni, president, California Farm Bureau Federation, has been asked to seek action by the American Farm Bureau in opposition to changes in support of vocational education. He understood that the Federal-State Committee had proposed repeal of the George Barden and Smith-Hughes Act.

At the closing session of Congress, the Federal Education Act was passed. This is an all-inclusive act and provides for scholarships, assistance in science and mathematics instruction and under Title VIII, the development of area vocational schools. The State Department of Education has

approved plans for securing assistance for vocational education under Title VIII of the Act. California is the first state to submit, and have approved, such a plan. Mr. McMahon said that there is question as to what technical occupations in agriculture could be covered by the Act.

At the State level, a joint legislative interim committee is studying all phases of education. The Committee is made up of seven Senators, seven Assemblymen, and thirty lay members. The Committee has been investigating the cost of education, what the public wants in public education, and what it is willing to pay for.

At the 1958 legislative session, it was proposed that a new plan be instituted for payment of State moneys to districts on an attendance basis. The present plan has added aid for impoverished districts. The fixed minimum is \$180 for each ADA, with an additional aid for handicapped students. An attempt was made to combine all features in a single over-all plan. Because of the normal increase in school enrollment, he pointed out, there will have to be an increase in educational funds. Alan Post, legislative auditor, has forecast a deficiency of \$282 million by 1960 unless services are curtailed or taxes increased.

Mr. Everett reported further on new Federal legislation that would set up area vocational schools. This is a compromise bill, he said, and not what educational people wanted. Thus far, no instructions have been received from the U. S. Office of Education. Should there be area schools, he said, they would probably be of junior college level.

Under the Federal Education Act of 1958, Congress can appropriate up to \$40 million a year, this being permissive legislation. From the first appropriation of \$4 million, California will get \$170,000 for all vocational services. Some of the funds can be used for planning, and some for pilot training. He described this Act as being a natural for technical training in such fields as electronics, for example. This would be similar to the War Industrial Training Courses, some of which were in food production.

New Developments in Education

Turning to new developments in education, Mr. McMahon mentioned the program underway in Compton Junior College. Every student at this school now has to take English and Algebra. Experimental use is being made of television with four classes of 40 students each being handled simultaneously by a single teacher. Three days a week are given to instruction by TV and two days for conferences with student. This is closed circuit television set-up with a live instructor used.

Needs of Food Processors

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Russ, seconded by Mr. Anderholt, and approved by the Advisory Committee that information be requested from food processing and handling people regarding their needs for technically trained employees, how great their need is, and specifically what their needs are.

National Defense Education Act

It was moved by Mr. Anderholt, seconded by Mr. Russ, and carried by the Committee that a presentation be made to California Congressmen and Senators impressing them with the importance of agriculture and its being given a greater place of importance in the National Defense Education Act.

National FF⁴ Convention

Mr. Couper reported on his attendance at the National Convention of Future Farmers of America. He said that California F.F.A. chapters were represented by the "cream of the crop". These included twelve American Farmers, State F.F.A. officers, and regional officers, in addition to other boys who were sent by local chapters as a reward for exceptional performance.

Panel Discussion at 1958 C.A.T.A. Conference

Mr. Couchman and Mr. Couper reported on the panel presentation made by Advisory Committee members at the annual conference of the California Agricultural Teachers Association at California State Polytechnic College on June 25, 1958. Participants were Mr. Boone, Mr. Avrit, Mr. Craig, Mr. Faure and Mr. Couchman. Their impression was that the panel discussion was well received by Vo-ag teachers.

State Plan; Vocational Education

Mr. McMahon reviewed for the Committee the status of the State Plan. This is an agreement between the U. S. Office of Education and the California State Department of Education that is renewed every five years. He said it is the hope of the Bureau to adapt the new plan to the needs of the present situation, and to anticipate agricultural development of the next ten years.

Recess and Tour

The meeting was then recessed so that the Committee could go to lunch, after which it was taken on a tour of the State Department of Education Building. Members were shown the offices of the Vocational Bureaus, the IBM room, and the Credential Section.

New Developments and Job Opportunities in Agriculture

Committee members then reported on new developments and job opportunities in agriculture.

Statement by Mr. Couchman

Mr. Couchman described the Prune Study Project being carried on by the University of California Agricultural Extension Service in the Gilroy-Morgan Hill area. He said this is unique in that Extension and research personnel are working very closely in an effort to pinpoint causes of tree die-back and the production of small fruit in that district. Both of these problems have caused serious losses to growers. To head up this project the Extension Service has appointed an Extension technologist whose responsibility is to secure close cooperation in test plots and investigational activity between the research people and the growers. The project is unique in that it has brought together in this common study project plant pathologists, entomologists, irrigation and soil specialists, and pomologists.

The project is attracting much attention among growers of other tree fruit and nut crops.

Statement by
Mr. Russ

Mr. Russ said that it appears that the sheep and wool business may be a turning point; and that if it were not for the incentive payment, there would be fewer sheep than there are now. He said that producers are trying to help themselves by promoting both wool and lamb, but noted the declining use of wool. Because of the warm weather last winter, the sheep industry in the north coast counties was badly hit by disease. He said there was a great deal of foot rot. He mentioned that the Veterinary Science Department of the University of California is at work on control of the summer pneumonia disease. This afflicts summer feeder lambs. He said that because of heavy lamb losses, many growers have become discouraged. He mentioned that wool values are set by the world market, of which Australia is the dominant factor. He added that the incentive program will be continued for three years.

Statement by
Mr. Craig

Mr. Craig reported on new developments in the vocational agriculture program at Santa Paula High School. He said that the superintendent and the administration had approved a program of "workerships" awarded to boys who had done an outstanding job in vocational agriculture. These workerships were granted to six boys who were employed by farmers for 100 hours at 75 cents an hour during the summer. He said that it was the unanimous opinion of all of the farmers who employed these boys that it was a very successful program and they want to do it again on an expanded basis. The boys were selected by their Vo-ag teachers, and at the conclusion of the program an evaluation of their work was made and the report placed in each boy's record.

He then reported on the work being done in Ventura County by citrus growers to facilitate the training of Spanish-speaking farm workers. The visual-oral approach is used. A motion picture, with a sound track in Spanish, has been prepared in three sections: camp safety, lemon picking and orange picking. He said that by use of this film, the training period for workers had been significantly shortened.

Mr. Craig also reported briefly on a trip he had recently made as a guest of the Defense Department during which the participants were shown the extent of the U. S. defense program.

Statement by
Mr. Faure

Mr. Faure reported on developments in the livestock industry. He said that various reports had been made by growers who had planted Coastal Bermuda Grass, some being good and some unfavorable.

Regarding the use of tranquilizers on beef cattle prepared for shipment to market, he said some packers are unhappy. He described it as a matter of yield, since the tranquilizers interfere with the normal elimination of body wastes.

Reporting on the California State Polytechnic College rate-of-gain sale, he said that bulls brought good prices and sold well. He said that bulls are brought in thinner condition than has heretofore been the case. He mentioned that Fresno State College is to hold a similar sale on December 10.

Commenting on present buying trends of beef cattle, he said that he anticipated low values on large steers.

Statement by
Mr. Anderholt

Mr. Anderholt said that he could see a trend toward vertical integration in both directions in row-crop production. This is now noticeable in the buying of fertilizers and other supplies, by-passing service institutions, and through farmers getting into processing themselves. He said that farmers are going to have to educate their sons in purchasing and handling of finished and semi-finished products.

Statement by
Mr. Blaser

Mr. Blaser reported on the organization of Cal-Can. He said the new processing cooperative was not formed as a result of a distressed situation, that the products involved are in fair shape. He said the executive group of the California Canning Peach Association made a thorough study of the situation before it was decided to sponsor the organization of Cal-Can. The growers realized that they couldn't undertake a processing operation with a single product, they couldn't buy up a broken-down cannery, and they could not build a new operation because of the very high cost. It was decided that growers had to have their own money in the deal, and the initial membership raised \$1 million to launch Cal-Can. The two canning firms acquired have a record of successful operation, and their management felt that they would have to merge into bigger operations in view of changing conditions in the food industry. He said that the management was retained because it was clear the operators will have to do a good job to pay themselves out. He mentioned also that more growers sought membership in Cal-Can than could be received. He added that Cal-Can has a waiting list of growers of practically every commodity except apricots.

Blaser spoke of the present tax liability of cooperatives, and said that work needs to be done in this area.

He said, also, that there is a greatly increased need for competent farm management people and foresaw the increased use of professional advisors.

Statement by
Mr. Avrit

Mr. Avrit said that the dairy business had a fairly good year this year, including the pricing of meat animals. He said, however, that he did not expect it to stay too good, that he looked for a downturn in beef prices next year. He said the number of dairy cattle is decreasing, and meanwhile, milk production is going up. The size of dairies is increasing, while the number of dairies is becoming fewer. Grade B operations are steadily going out of business, he said, and marketing milk is now largely coming from Grade A dairies.

Mr. Avrit described the new Beaumatic milking machine which operated at a lower vacuum. "This machine milks faster and causes less mastitis", he said.

Describing the production of purebred cattle as one of the few remaining fields of free enterprise, he said that only eight percent of the cattle in the United States are purebreds. He mentioned that at recent sales the price of purebred Holsteins had averaged \$444 for all classes at all sales, about \$90 per head higher than last year.

Next Meeting

The committee then discussed the date of the next meeting, and agreed that it would be held on April 10 at Porterville.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

/signed/ Robert Couchman

Robert Couchman
Secretary