

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

March 13, 1964  
Brawley, California

ROLL CALL

Present:

Advisory Committee Members

Norman H. Boeger  
Glen Eidman  
Frederick B. Frick  
Verne Hoffman, Jr.  
Milton L. Kidd  
Herman M. Sperber  
Theodore J. Todd

Bureau Staff and Guests

Byron J. McMahon  
E. D. Graf  
W. J. Maynard  
G. P. Couper  
Edward F. van Dam, District  
Superintendent and Principal,  
Brawley Union High School  
Kermit Kliever, Director of  
Agriculture

Absent:

Allan Grant  
Willis A. Stribling

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M. by Chairman Glen Eidman.

Recent Developments  
Under the Vocational  
Education Act of 1963

Mr. McMahon reviewed recent developments resulting from passage of the Vocational Education Act of 1963. He said that the major provisions of the Smith-Hughes and George-Barden Acts will be continued. He indicated that supervised practice for high school vo-ag boys may now be conducted in agri-business or agri-service activities, not necessarily on the farm. He stated that the new legislation, if financed, will help take care of actual or potential drop-outs by providing a directed and specialized occupational training program. The program also sets up potential aid to out-of-school young people, for retraining adults, and for the socio-economic group needing special help. He said an Interim State Plan, which would permit use of the funds if appropriated, has been prepared.

Recent Developments  
Under the MDTA Pro-  
gram

Mr. Graf reported that a number of successful programs have been conducted through MDTA, but this program is now out of funds. The most successful were in pruning, farm equipment operation, and special ornamental horticulture occupations. A long-time program for all-around farm equipment technicians is not doing so well because of the length of the program - nine months.

Mr. Graf asked the advisory committee for suggestions on possible future MDTA programs. A question was raised as to whether it was necessary to train citrus harvesters for as long as two weeks (minimum length of the program). In connection with citrus workers, it was stated that farm employment is sending out a very poor quality of individual. Discussion followed on motivation and how to secure it. It was stated as a possibility that at Corona, the Growers Service could recruit a better kind of worker and get the Department of Employment to certify them for a training program if this was desirable.

A farm supervision course at Palo Verde Junior College, Blythe, was discussed. It was described in an article in the CALIFORNIA FARMER. It was pointed out that such a program could be put on at night school by any high school or junior college. It was pointed out that having farm equipment painted and in good repair gives workers much greater pride in their work, and they will stay on the job. There is a great potential in training supervisors.

#### Developments in The Farm Youth Training Program

The Youth Employment Program was discussed at considerable length. The statement of accepted responsibilities of the Bureau in this program, and the factors for which the Bureau would not accept responsibility, was distributed. A short teaching unit in work responsibility, to be distributed to every high school vo-ag department in California, was also given to each committee member. Mention was made of a Farm Bureau program and a 4-H Club program. Mr. Boeger said in Butte County seven or eight crews of about twenty persons each were being recruited and trained. He said that transportation and supervision costs are problems.

#### Recent Developments and Trends in Agri- culture

Members of the advisory committee were asked to give reports on new things in their respective fields of agriculture. For details, please refer to the mimeographed material attached to these minutes.

#### Special Needs in Ornamental Horti- culture

Mr. McMahon said there is a need to discuss the special impact of expanded ornamental horticulture offerings, but since Mr. Stribling was not present, this was continued until the fall meeting.

#### General Discussion

Mr. van Dam said that there was interest in county-wide development of vocational education. Discussion has included the employment of a full-time county man to

survey the needs and to make recommendations. The total program could be in the junior college. There is no thought of an area vocational school on the high school level, but each high school might specialize in one or more occupational offerings.

Mr. McMahon said there is need for thinking about future agricultural mechanics shops - size, multi-purpose use with industrial courses, etc. He indicated this should be put on the agenda for the September meeting.

Committee  
Membership

Mr. McMahon stated that Herman Sperber and Ted Todd, whose terms expired at this meeting, had agreed to remain on the committee for another three-year term.

Election of  
Officers

Theodore Todd was elected Chairman, Herman Sperber will serve as Vice Chairman, and Verne Hoffman, Jr., will act as Secretary for the 1964-65 year.

Date and Place  
of Fall Meeting

Friday, September 18, 1964 was tentatively set as the date for the fall meeting, which is to be held at Bakersfield.

Tour of Farm Areas  
in the Imperial  
Valley

After adjournment, the group visited a tile-laying operation, which uses plastic tile jointed underground in sections; a large cattle feeding operation, and a chemical mixing plant owned by a large group of Imperial Valley growers.

Respectfully submitted by

George P. Couper  
Acting Secretary for  
Herman Sperber

enclosure