

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

March 13, 1968
Madera High School, Madera

ROLL CALL

Present

Advisory Committee Members

Glen Eidman
Fred Frick
Richard Johnsen
Milton Kidd
Ralph Nissen
Robert Smith

Bureau Staff and Guests

Jerry Davis
Dave Graf
Gilbert Hutchings
Don Wilson
Jerry Halterman
Guy McLeod

Absent

Norman Boeger
William Du Bois
Willis Stribling

The program was turned over to Dino Petrucci, who reviewed the Vo-ag Program of Madera High School. He then conducted the group on a tour of the school facilities and the school farm.

Bob Smith, the Advisory Committee's Secretary, conducted the meeting following the tour.

Arthur D. Little Report

Richard Johnsen, a member of the advisory panel of the ADL Study reported on the progress of the study. The ADL group is making visits to schools on a State cross-sectional basis. The study team is interviewing many students and some officials concerning vocational education. Their first report will be made on July 1, 1968. It was indicated that there was some concern on the part of the advisory panel as to the progress of the study.

Liaison Committee Study of Vocational Education

Dr. Jerry Halterman presented slides and charts to explain the study. Dr. Guy McLeod commented and asked for reactions from the Advisory Committee.

Thailand Trip

Don Wilson reported on his trip to Thailand to assist in the evaluation of the progress of Cal Poly's Agricultural Education Assistance Team.

Organization of the State Fair Board and Cal Expo Board

Ralph Nissen reported on the organization of these boards. An agricultural Committee, representing the Corporation and Fair Board, helps in programming agricultural aspects of the Exposition. Mr. Nissen suggested that an advisory group of Agricultural Teachers and Bureau Staff Members be appointed to work in liaison with him and Harrison Cutler in order to assist in maintaining a stable agricultural program at the Exposition.

Legislation

Dave Graf discussed various legislation now pending which will affect vocational education. One proposed National Act would eliminate the Smith-Hughes George-Barden Acts by combining them with later vocational acts. A bill now proposed at the State level would provide for a State Council for Vocational Education. This has many ramifications.

Trends in Agriculture (Five-minute reports by Committee Members)

Fred Frick, Arvin: The livestock industry grows in importance. However, there seems to be some movement out of the State by packers and feeders. Several large plants will close and relocate. This ultimately will reflect back on local producers.

Glen Eidman, Willows: There is definitely a trend to do feeding east of California. Foot and mouth disease recently occurred in England. The United States should be on guard against this. The lamb price is strong - 28 cents now. The wool market is very low, and may cause large producing countries to change sheep operations. The NFO is growing in popularity in California. The Finish Landrace sheep is getting popular and may get a start in the United States.

Milton Kidd, Modesto: The major dairy companies are now selling filled milk or milk substitutes. The future of the dairy business appears to be uncertain. The water outlook is good for this year, and the hay price may favor the dairyman.

Ralph Nissen, Williams:

The rice program is looking better with expanded acreage in the offing. There may be water shortages. The NFO is expanding in high farm income counties.

Richard Johnsen, Sacramento: The NFO may be looking for political advantage. Since this is an election year probably no controversial legislation will be enacted. There is a trend away from getting general funds for special agricultural programs. The idea now is farmer self-help or self-financed programs. Agriculturalists should become market oriented as opposed to being exclusively production oriented. Air freight may soon be competitive with trucking freight rates.

Bob Smith, Shafter: Long staple cotton production will not fill the market demands this year, which, in turn, may cause an increase in demands for synthetics.

Glen Eidman suggested that the major problem facing vocational agricultural education today is the recruitment of good teachers. A strong department can exist only where a good teacher exists.

Bob Smith recommended that good teachers be encouraged to shift into counseling and other positions. This will improve the total climate for agricultural education.

Election of New Officers

Chairman: Robert Smith
Vice Chairman: William I. Du Bois
Secretary: Richard Johnsen

Date and Place for Next Meeting

The Fall meeting will be held Wednesday, October 9, 1968 in one of the schools in the vicinity of Arcata. The place is to be selected by Don Wilson.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M.