MINUTES

JOINT MEETING OF THE NATIONAL BOARDS OF STUDENT OFFICERS
AND DIRECTORS OF THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Kansas City, Missouri October 11-12, 1958

October 11

The meeting of the Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors of the Future Farmers of America was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in Room 441 of the Hotel President, in Kansas City, Missouri, by Dr. W. T. Spanton, Chairman of the Board of Directors. Board members present, in addition to Dr. Spanton, included:

Board of Directors

- Mr. Harold F. Duis, State Director of Agricultural Education, State Board of Vocational Education, Lincoln, Nebraska;
- Mr. George F. Sullards, State Director of Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, Little Rock, Arkansas;
- Mr. Walter Jacoby, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, Hartford, Connecticut;
- Mr. Bob E. Taylor, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, Department of Vocational Education, Phoenix, Arizona;
- Mr. E. J. Johnson; Mr. H. N. Hunsicker; Mr. R. E. Naugher; and Dr. A. W. Tenney, all of the Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

Board of Student Officers

Howard Downing, National FFA President, Nicholasville, Kentucky; Jerry D. Rulon, National FFA Vice President, Arcadia, Indiana; Leon C. Smith, National FFA Vice President, Rome, New York; Royce Bodiford, National FFA Vice President, Millsap, Texas; Jerry W. Cullison, National FFA Vice President, Phoenix, Arizona; and Nathan Reese, National FFA Student Secretary, Mooreland, Oklahoma.

Mr. Wm. Paul Gray, National FFA Executive Secretary, Office of Education, Washington, D. C., and Mr. R. E. Bass, National FFA Treasurer, Richmond, Virginia, were also present.

Approval of previous Minutes

It was moved by Royce Bodiford, seconded by Leon Smith and carried, that the reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with, and the Minutes be accepted as previously mimeographed and distributed. It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Naugher and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

Dr. Spanton called for reports from the four Regional representatives on the Board, concerning any matters which they wished to present.

Mr. Taylor, representing the Pacific Region, read a letter from the State Supervisor in Wyoming, in which attention was called to the outstanding work done by a certain vocational agriculture instructor in that State, particularly in the field of public relations; yet, under the scoring system now in effect, this teacher does not qualify for the Honorary American Farmer Degree. The State Supervisor felt that the person in question really was deserving of this recognition and suggested that the Board give consideration to changing the scoring system now being used. Mr. Johnson stated that he was familiar with the fine services rendered by this particular teacher throughout the years. In the discussion which followed, it was pointed out that a change in the score card to take care of this particular case, might affect 500 other teachers who could qualify for the Degree if the standards were lowered.

Reports of Regional Representatives

It was moved by Jerry Rulon, seconded by Nathan Reese and carried, that the score card now being used for awarding the Honorary American Farmer Degree to teachers of vocational agriculture, be continued with no changes. It was moved by Mr. Jacoby, seconded by Mr. Sullards and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

Mr. Sullards advised that he had nothing to discuss on behalf of the Southern Region. Mr. Duis, representing the Central Region, had nothing to report, nor did Mr. Jacoby for the North Atlantic Region.

Dr. Tenney stated that during a recent visit to Kansas, North Dakota and South Dakota, it had been brought to his attention that the Identification Cards for members attending the convention, did not accompany the registration cards when they were mailed to the States recently. Dr. Tenney had heard some complaints on this, because it meant that the State Supervisors would have to sign all their ID cards after they arrived in Kansas City and they felt that this would create quite a problem. This matter was discussed at some

length, and it was thought that the cards could be signed Any change by local teachers, or area supervisors, rather than by the for mext y head State Supervisor. The whole idea back of the ID card is that some adult will be responsible for the conduct of

the FFA member.

ID cards signed by local teachers or area supervisors

Dr. Spanton announced that no appeals for review of rejected applications for the American Farmer Degree, had been received in the National Office this year.

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Roy Battles-Honorary American Farmer Degree Dr. Spanton next presented the names of two persons, both of whom are to serve as judges of the National FFA Public Speaking Contest during the convention, to be considered by the Boards for the Honorary American Farmer Degree. They were: Mr. Roy Battles, Assistant to the Master, The National Grange, Washington, D. C.; and, Mr. Stillman J. Stanard, State Director of Agriculture, Springfield, Illinois.

It was moved by Jerry Cullison, seconded by Leon Smith and carried, that Mr. Roy Battles, Assistant to the Master, The National Grange, Washington, D. C., be recommended to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree. It was moved by Dr. Tenney, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

Stillman J. Stanard --Honorary American Farmer Degree It was moved by Leon Smith, seconded by Jerry Rulon and carried, that Mr. Stillman J. Stanard, State Director of Agriculture, Springfield, Illinois, be recommended to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree. It was moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Hunsicker and carried, that the action of the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

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Mr. Edward J. Hawkins, Manager of the Future Farmers Supply Service, appeared before the Boards and gave a brief report on the Supply Service. He presented to Dr. Spanton a check for \$40,000.00 from the Supply Service, which is to be placed in the Building Fund.

Check from
Supply
Service
to be
applied of
to FFA
Building
Fund

It was moved by Nathan Reese, seconded by Royce Bodiford and carried, that the Board of Student Officers go on record as expressing appreciation to the FFA Supply Service for the check in the amount of \$40,000.00 to be applied to the FFA Building Fund, and for the efficient manner in which the Supply Service is administered. It was moved by Mr. Duis, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

The next matter to come before the Boards was consideration of several proposed amendments to the National FFA Constitution which had been submitted to the National Office by the State FFA Associations of Maryland, Virginia, Connecticut, West Virginia, Texas, and Oregon respectively. These proposed amendments were considered in the order just named, as follows:

Proposed Amendments Submitted by the Maryland Association

- 1. Amend Article IV Section B, "Active Membership" by deleting the phrase "upon receiving a majority vote of the chapter membership at any local chapter meeting."
- 2. Amend Article V Section B, "Green Hand Degree" by deleting paragraph 4.
- 3. Amend Article V Section C, "Chapter Farmer Degree" by deleting paragraph 8.

After careful consideration of the above proposed amendments, it was moved by Jerry Rulon, seconded by Jerry Cullison and carried, that the Board of Student Officers go on record as recommending to the delegate body that the proposed amendment to Article IV, Section B, of the National FFA Constitution, submitted by the Maryland Association of FFA, be accepted; that the proposed amendment to Article V, Section B, be rejected; and that the proposed amendment to Article V, Section C, of the National FFA Constitution, be rejected. It was moved by Mr. Sullards, seconded by Mr. Duis and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

Proposed Amendment Submitted by the Virginia Association

Amend Section A of Article II "Organization" by changing the last sentence in that paragraph to read as follows:

"It shall consist of chartered State Associations which, in turn, are composed of not less than four local chapters chartered by a State Association and having a total active membership of not less than 125."

In the discussion which followed, it was pointed out that at the present time, there is no minimum on the number of chapters making up a State Association, nor on membership. As this applies to funds made available to the States through the FFA Foundation, it would mean that approximately \$1,000. would be available to a State that had only one chapter.

After careful consideration, it was moved by Jerry Cullison, seconded by Leon Smith and carried, that the Board of Student Officers go on record as recommending to the delegate body that the proposed amendment to Article II, Section A, of the National FFA Constitution, submitted by the Virginia Association of FFA, be accepted. It was moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Sullards and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

Proposed
amendments
to National
Constitution
submitted by
Maryland
Association

Proposed
amendment
to National
Constitution
submitted by
Virginia
Association

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In line with the above discussion, Mr. Naugher stated that the Virgin Islands would like to form an FFA Chapter, but they would not be able to establish four chapters. Guam has also expressed a desire to join the FFA Organization. It was also pointed out that Alaska, now that it has become a State, would be a potential factor in the National Organization of FFA, but it would be sometime before they would be able to set up a minimum of four chapters. The possibility was discussed of setting up provisional, or affiliate, chapters in such cases, until such time as they could form the required number of chapters. No formal action was taken.

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Discussion on review of proposed amendments was resumed, as follows:

Proposed Amendment Submitted by the Connecticut Association

Amend Section A of Article VI "Procedure for Choosing Candidates for the American Farmer Degree" to read as follows:

Proposed
Amendment
to National
Constitution
submitted by
Connecticut
Association

"A State association may submit, annually, the applications of two candidates for the American Farmer Degree for the first 1,000 active members in the association, or major fraction thereof, and the application of one candidate for each additional 1,000 active members, or major fraction thereof, computed on the basis of national dues received in the office of the National Treasurer by midnight of June 15, or shown by postmark or other reliable evidence, to have been mailed to the National Treasurer on or before June 1. Each State association in good standing shall be entitled to submit the applications of at least two candidates for the American Farmer Degree each year."

This proposed amendment was discussed at some length, after which it was moved by Jerry Cullison, and seconded by Leon Smith, that the Board of Student Officers go on record as recommending to the delegate body that the proposed amendment to Article VI, Section A, of the National FFA Constitution, submitted by the Connecticut Association of FFA, be adopted. The vote on the motion was: Aye's - 2; No's - 4. The motion was, therefore, not carried, and the proposed amendment was not recommended for adoption. It was moved by Mr. Duis, seconded by Mr. Naugher and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

Proposed Amendment Submitted by the West Virginia Association

Amend paragraph 2, Section D "State Farmer Degree" of Article V "Active Membership Degrees and Privileges" to read as follows:

Proposed
amendment
to National
Constitution
submitted by
West Virginia
Association

"Must have satisfactorily completed at least two years of instruction in vocational agriculture and be regularly enrolled in a vocational agriculture class, or have satisfactorily completed at least three years of instruction in vocational agriculture, or have completed all of the vocational agriculture offered at the school last attended; and have in operation an outstanding program of supervised farming."

After thorough discussion on this proposed amendment, it was moved by Royce Bodiford, seconded by Leon Smith and carried, that the Board of Student Officers go on record as recommending to the delegate body that the proposed amendment to Article V, Section D, paragraph 2, of the National FFA Constitution, submitted by the West Virginia Association of FFA, be rejected. It was moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Sullards and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

Proposed Amendments Submitted by the Texas Association

1. Amend paragraph 9, Section D, "State Farmer Degree" of Article V "Active Membership Degrees and Privileges" to read as follows:

Proposed
Amendments
to National
Constitution
submitted by
Texas
Association

"Each State association shall be entitled to elect at least ten qualified individuals annually; where State membership exceeds 500, a number in excess of ten, but not more than 3% of the total State membership, may be elected (fractions counted to the nearest whole number). Written records of achievement verified by the local advisor shall be submitted to the State advisor by the local chapter's governing body at least one month prior to the State convention. The State Advisor will then review the records. prepare briefs, and submit his recommendations to the governing body of the State association. This body will nominate at the regular State convention the candidates who have been found most worthy to receive the honor. Briefs of the records shall be made available to the delegates when the candidates are nominated. The delegates shall then proceed to elect to the State Farmer Degree the candidates found most worthy."

2. Amend Section A of Article VI "Procedure for Choosing Candidates for the American Farmer Degree" to read as follows:

Proposed
amendments
to National
Constitution
submitted by
Texas
Association
(Cont'd.)

"A State association may submit, annually, the application of one candidate for the American Farmer Degree for each 500 active members in the association or major fraction thereof, computed on the basis of national dues received in the office of the National Treasurer by midnight of June 15, or shown by postmark or other reliable evidence, to have been mailed to the National Treasurer on or before June 1. Each State association in good standing shall be entitled to submit the application of at least one candidate for the American Farmer Degree each year."

These proposed amendments were considered very carefully by both Boards, after which it was moved by Jerry Rulon, seconded by Jerry Cullison and carried, that the Board of Student Officers go on record as recommending to the delegate body that the proposed amendment to Paragraph 9, Section D, Article V, of the National FFA Constitution, submitted by the Texas Association of FFA, be rejected; and that the proposed amendment to Section A of Article VI, of the National FFA Constitution, submitted by the Texas Association of FFA, also be rejected. It was moved by Mr. Naugher, seconded by Mr. Sullards and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

Proposed Amendment Submitted by the Oregon Association

Amend Article III "Procedure for Determining Standing of State Associations, Chapters and Members" by adding an Item 4 under Section C, as follows:

4. "He is currently enrolled in a high school class of vocational agriculture or has completed all vocational agriculture taught in the school last attended."

Proposed
amendment
to National
Constitution
submitted by
Oregon
Association

It was moved by Jerry Rulon, seconded by Royce Bodiford and carried, that the Board of Student Officers go on record as recommending to the delegate body that the proposed amendment to Article III, Section C, of the National FFA Constitution, submitted by the Oregon Association of FFA, be accepted. It was moved by Mr. Naugher, seconded by Dr. Tenney and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

Report
on the
Old Mill

The next item on the agenda was a report, given by Mr. Gray, on the operation of the "Old Mill" located near Mt. Vernon, Virginia, and operated by the Future Farmers of America under lease from the State of Virginia. Mr. Gray stated that he met recently with Mr. Randolph Odell, Commissioner, Division of Parks, for the State of Virginia, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Rathke, caretakers at the Mill. Mr. Odell praised the FFA Organization and the Rathke's for the fine job they have done in keeping the Mill open to the public. He stated, frankly, that he would regret to see the Mill closed, and the State of Virginia is willing to assist the FFA in any reasonable way in continuing its operation. The lack of parking space at the Mill was discussed, as well as the possibility of erecting additional signs along the highway. A suggestion was made that three additional picnic tables be built and placed in an area adjacent to the park where there is now only one table. Mr. Odell stated that the State of Virginia would bear the cost of building the tables. He also agreed that the State would erect and paint three new signs.

Mill closed November to April Mr. Gray stated that since there are very few tourists during the winter months, it has been agreed that the Mill will be closed from November until April. Mr. and Mrs. Rathke have consented to care for the property during this time if the FFA Organization will pay for the utilities at the cottage which they occupy.

Progress report on grounds at FFA Building Dr. Spanton next asked Mr. Johnson to give a brief progress report on the grounds surrounding the new FFA Building. Mr. Johnson stated that improvements have recently been made to the road extending from the building out to the Mt. Vernon Highway. The roadbed has been graded and this has added greatly to the approach to the building. The grounds have been seeded in rye grass, and this has added considerably to the area surrounding the building. Future plans call for the extension of the parking lot to accommodate additional automobiles.

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The Chairman next asked Mr. Gray for a report on the National FFA Leadership Training Conference, as well as dedication plans for the new FFA Building.

Proposed
meeting of
National FFA
Leadership
Training
Conference

Mr. Gray stated that tentative plans call for holding a National FFA Leadership Training Conference on Wednesday and Thursday, July 22 and 23, 1959, just prior to the joint meeting of the Boards of Student Officers and Directors of the FFA. The main purpose of the Conference would be to acquaint the conferees with the administration of the organization on the National level -- as well as the Future Farmers Supply Service, and The National FUTURE FARMER Magazine. Tours to points of interest in Washington and vicinity could be arranged for the conferees, as well as meetings with their various Congressmen if they so desired.

On Friday morning, July 24, 1959, the dedication ceremony could be held at the FFA Building, near Mt. Vernon. Suggestions for the dedication ceremony include: Massing of State flags; music by a Service Band; addresses by prominent persons, and outstanding leaders in the FFA who might return for the dedication; and participation by State representatives in some manner. It was definitely felt that the States should have some part in the ceremony.

Members of the Boards discussed at some length these proposed plans. It was thought that the delegates at this year's convention should appoint a Committee to assist with plans for the dedication ceremony.

Plans for dedication ceremony at new FFA Building

A discussion was held on ways and means of financing these proposed affairs, as well as travel of the conferees. Dr. Spanton asked the Regional members of the Board for their opinions as to how travel for the conferees might be financed Most of them seemed to feel that such travel could be financed either by the State Associations, or on the local chapter levels.

It was the consensus of the group that the States should select their representatives with care, and that the recommendation be made to the delegates, assembled in convention, that attendance at the National FFA Leadership Training Conference be limited to six representatives from each State. Without objection, it was so ordered.

It was decided that final details, and plans for financing these affairs, should be discussed at the January meeting of the two Boards.

Site for proposed Agricultural Hall of Fame

Dr. Spanton next explained to the Board members that about six months ago, Mr. Howard A. Cowden, President of Consumers Cooperative Association, in Kansas City, Missouri, instigated the idea of establishing an "Agricultural Hall of Fame". This would include a museum, a library, and a place to honor outstanding agricultural leaders, similar to the "Baseball Hall of Fame". The site for the proposed "Agricultural Hall of Fame" has not yet been chosen. Several locations have been suggested -- one of them being "Roanridge" a 200-acre farm, near Kansas City, Missouri, the former home of Mr. W. A. Cochel, now deceased, who was a long-time friend of the FFA. The Junior Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City has urged that the National Organization of FFA endorse the selection of a site in the Kansas City area, as it would provide the opportunity for FFA boys attending the convention, each year, to visit this agricultural shrine. Dr. Spanton stated that he would like to recommend to the Resolutions Committee, for their consideration and final action, that the proposed "Agricultural Hall of Fame" be located in the Kansas City area. Without objection, it was so ordered.

October 12

The meeting was reconvened at 8:30 a.m. in Room 441 of the Hotel President, in Kansas City, Missouri, all members of both Boards being present.

Report on Magazine

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years.

Mr. Wilson Carnes, Editor of The National FUTURE FARMER, was present and gave a report on the magazine. He stated that they have been experiencing some difficulty in securing advertising recently, and for that reason the October-November issue has eight fewer pages of advertising than a year ago. Mr. Carnes said that publications, in general, are having trouble in securing advertising. Many companies have cut their advertising budgets, due to the effects of the recent recession. They have just so much money to spend on advertising, and that is it. Also, there is keen competition from TV and other media. Mr. Carnes stated that the magazine finds itself in the position of lower income, but increased costs. There are several contributing factors: The magazine staff is now putting out six issues a year, instead of four; printing costs have gone up 8%, and salaries 20% since the magazine was started. In addition, the magazine pays \$10,000 annually to the National Organization for its share of rent on the new FFA Building. Mr. Carnes expressed the opinion that their advertising schedule will show improvement during the coming year. He also anticipates an increase in subscriptions. Idaho, Kansas, New Hampshire and Tennessee have indicated 100% participation for next year. Mr. Carnes stated that some magazines are raising their subscription rates. Two of the major farm magazines, Progressive Farmer and Farm & Ranch, are doubling their subscription prices. He stated that last year it actually cost \$1.09 to furnish The National FUTURE FARMER to each subscriber; whereas, they realized only \$0.25, or \$0.225 from each subscriber when purchased through the State Associations. He stated that he fears the magazine will show a deficit unless business conditions pick up soon.

Dr. Tenney asked if the magazine will need additional operating funds to tide them over this period of recession. Mr. Carnes replied that he is now making a very careful study of the situation, and hopes that it will not be necessary to ask the FFA Organization for funds. Dr. Spanton stated that he would not like to see the quality of the magazine cut, because we have received very favorable comments on its excellent quality.

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Mr. Carnes then read a letter which he had received from Mr. V. E. Burgener, State FFA Executive Secretary in Illinois, in which he proposed that a State insert be forwarded to the office of The National FUTURE FARMER for inclusion in copies of all issues being mailed out to the subscribers in Illinois. Dr. Tenney said that this matter had been discussed with him when he visited in Illinois recently, and he was told that the State of Illinois would have 100% participation in The National FUTURE FARMER if they could get the State insert in the magazine. Mr. Carnes pointed out that Mr. Burgener had suggested that the insert be dropped in the back of the magazine and sent out that way.

State
inserts
included
in The
National
FUTURE
FARMER

Mr. Carnes said he doubted that this could be done, so he checked with the Post Office Department to see if it could be sent under Second Class Permit. He was told that this could not be done -- that it would require 3c postage on each magazine if the insert were included in this manner, He was told at the Post Office Department that the Saturday Evening Post recently inserted some recipes in their magazine. Because of this, the Post Office Department billed them for \$800,000 additional postage. Mr. Carnes stated that the insert could be stapled into the magazine and sent at no additional cost, because then it becomes a part of the magazine. It was suggested that the insert be stapled at the center of the magazine. This, however, presents the problem of interfering with the numbering of the pages of the magazine. Royce Bodiford suggested that a different type of numbering might be used for the insert. Mr. Carnes suggested the possibility of gluing the insert to the magazine, between the joke page and the back cover. Several other possibilities were discussed, but it was pointed out that however it might be handled, it will increase the cost. It was also pointed out that if one State sent in an insert, other States might wish to do the same, and this could become quite complicated for the staff at The National FUTURE FARMER. The question was raised as to the amount of time that would be involved in carrying out such an undertaking. Mr. Carnes estimated that it would be three weeks from the time the State mailed in the material until it would be back in the hands of the subscriber. In other words, it would probably be one month to six weeks from the time the material would be prepared in the State until it would be back in the hands of the subscriber. Some members of the Board thought that the time element involved would make local news uninteresting to the reader. It was also pointed out that if the State insert contained advertising, it might have a tendency to make it difficult to secure advertising for The National FUTURE FARMER.

Mr. Carnes agreed to check all aspects of the matter and present complete and definite information to the Boards at their January meeting.

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Report on
Future
Farmers
Supply
Service

Mr. Edward J. Hawkins, Manager of the Future Farmers Supply Service, was present and reported that business is coming in about 5% ahead of last year. Jacket sales are up somewhat over last year, and the total volume of business is up considerably.

Jerry Rulon reported to the group that his attention has been called to the fact that some States have been receiving jackets without the name of the State on the back of the jacket. He thought that such jackets were intended only for the National FFA Officers. Another instance was recalled where a boy in Nevada was seen wearing a jacket with only the emblem on the back. Another boy, not of high school age, was seen wearing an FFA jacket. When asked where he obtained his jacket, he replied that he had "ordered it".

Mr. Hawkins stated that he thought these were very rare cases. He stated that he makes "spot checks" on orders, but that it would be impossible for him to personally check all orders received at the FFA Supply Service. He thought the matter last mentioned could be corrected by adding the words "Available to FFA Members Only" in the FFA Catalogue. It was thought that a definite policy should be set on the proper lettering to be used on the backs of the jackets.

Policy on FFA Jackets After further discussion, it was moved by Jerry Cullison, seconded by Jerry Rulon and carried, that FFA jackets be sold only to members of the Future Farmers of America; that the wearing of jackets with the emblem only on the back be restricted to National FFA Officers; that jackets ordered by the State Associations for State Officers bear the name of the State above the emblem, with the word "Association" below the emblem; that all other jackets ordered by the State Associations bear the name of the State above the emblem, with optional wording below the emblem; and that jackets ordered on the local or chapter level show the name of the State above the emblem with the chapter name below the emblem. It was moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Hunsicker and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

new officers

Howard Downing stated that certain donors to the National FFA Foundation have discussed with him the fact that they get no specific publicity by contributing to the National FFA Foundation; whereas, other companies make a contribution on the State level and receive a considerable amount of publicity. Howard remarked that he has found it rather difficult to make a satisfactory explanation in such cases. Dr. Spanton again explained the policies that have governed the administration of the National FFA Foundation. He admitted that if this practice continues in the States, it may mean the eventual end of the National FFA Foundation.

There being no further business to come before the Boards, the meeting was adjourned in order to enable members of the Boards to attend services at the Country Club Methodist Church in which the National FFA Chorus will participate.

Wm. Paul Gray, Secretary

W. T. Spanton, Chairman