

MINUTES

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

Kansas City, Missouri
October 13-14, 1956

October 13

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 741 of the Hotel President, in Kansas City, Missouri, by Dr. W. T. Spanton, Chairman of the Board of Directors. Those present included:

Board of Directors 1/

Mr. H. M. McDonald, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, Baltimore, Maryland;
Mr. Warren G. Weiler, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, Columbus, Ohio;
Mr. Emory M. Howard, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, State Board of Vocational Education, Boise, Idaho;
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

Daniel Dunham, National FFA President, Lakeview, Oregon;
Lennie Gamage, National FFA Vice President, Cartersville, Virginia;
Dale Ring, National FFA Vice President, Wooster, Ohio;
Allen Colebank, National FFA Vice President, Morgantown, W. Va.;
Lynn Loosli, National FFA Vice President, Ashton, Idaho; and
Terrell Benton, Jr., National FFA Student Secretary, Jefferson, Ga.

IT WAS MOVED BY TERRELL BENTON, seconded by Lynn Loosli 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. WEILER, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried, that the action of the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

Mr. John Frank, President of the Frankoma Pottery Company, Sapulpa, Oklahoma, appeared before the Board to present a problem with which he was confronted in connection with the manufacture and sale of "Bolo Ties" bearing the FFA Emblem. He stated that he had been asked by a salesman (Paul Hammond) to design and manufacture Bolo Ties bearing the FFA Emblem. Mr. Frank did so, but after making up 250 dozen of the ties, he learned

1/ Mr. J. C. Cannon, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, Montgomery, Alabama, absent due to illness.

that approval for the use of the FFA Emblem should have been secured. The Board members thanked Mr. Frank for his honesty and integrity in contacting them, and advised that he would be informed as to the action taken by the two Boards.

After considerable discussion, IT WAS MOVED BY DALE RING, seconded by Allen Colebank and carried, that the Board of Student Officers not authorize the sale of the Bolo Ties manufactured by the Frankoma Pottery Company, as an official FFA item. MR. HUNSICKER MOVED that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tenney and carried.

Dr. Tenney explained that the American Heritage Foundation has been working with various groups, for sometime, in promoting civic responsibility, and are now concerned with urging citizens to exercise their rights as voters in the coming election. It was thought that perhaps the National FFA Organization should recommend that its members cooperate on local levels in promoting registration and voting by all citizens.

IT WAS MOVED BY LYNN LOOSLI, seconded by Dale Ring and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the delegates assembled in National Convention, that the National Organization of FFA go on record as favoring cooperation with the American Heritage Foundation in "getting out the vote". IT WAS MOVED BY MR. HOWARD, seconded by Mr. Hunsicker and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

Dr. Spanton introduced Mr. Claude Gifford, Associate Editor of FARM JOURNAL, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who presented a plan for a forum-type discussion on farm problems -- rather than the present Public Speaking Contest where a contestant delivers a speech which he has memorized. Mr. Gifford explained that FARM JOURNAL wants nothing from this. They merely feel that more can be derived from "debating" a question than by giving a memorized speech. He stated further that they believe that if we are going to have sound farm policies in the future, it will be because young farm men and women get up on their feet and discuss, intelligently, farm problems and the solutions to these problems. He cited the fact that the high schools have a National question for debate. This year the subject will be: "What Agricultural Policy Will Best Serve the Interests of the People of the United States"? This question will be discussed all over the country this year. City boys will be talking and thinking about problems of the farmers and, therefore, will come to know more about these problems than in any other way. High school debaters will be talking to PTA groups, civic clubs, etc., and this should serve to help inform city dwellers, who make up 85 per cent of the population, on farm problems.

Mr. Gifford posed the question: "Would it not be a good idea to have a National farm debate question for the FFA?" It could be conducted on a contest basis -- with two or three teams participating. Mr. Gifford felt that there would be more participation by FFA members in a forum-type discussion, than through the Public Speaking Contest.

It was the sense of both Boards that the Forum idea was a matter which would have to be considered further, since, if adopted, it would involve many changes, methods, procedures, etc.

Mr. Johnson suggested that Mr. Gifford submit his plan in written form -- with perhaps ideas for putting it in operation -- so that the entire matter could be presented to the Boards at their January meeting. This, Mr. Gifford agreed to do. Dr. Spanton thanked him for his presentation and promised that the matter would be given further consideration in January.

Mr. Edward J. Hawkins, Manager of the Future Farmers Supply Service, was present and gave a brief report on the FFA Supply Service. He also presented samples of various types of key chains for the Board members to inspect.

IT WAS MOVED BY LENNIE GAMAGE, seconded by Lynn Loosli and carried, that the Board of Student Officers approve the off-set link style chain, submitted by Mr. Hawkins, as the official key chain to be carried by the Supply Service. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. WEILER, seconded by Mr. Naugher and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be sustained by the Board of Directors.

Mr. Hawkins announced that the FFA Jacket Contract will expire at the end of this year. Nine companies were sent invitations to bid on a new contract. Four companies responded with bids.

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Hawkins, it WAS MOVED BY LYNN LOOSLI, seconded by Terrell Benton and carried, that on the basis of bids submitted, contracts be awarded the Universal Uniform Company and the Ringer, St. Croix Company to furnish FFA jackets for a period of three years -- with an additional two-year option -- beginning January 1, 1957. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. McDONALD, seconded by Mr. Howard and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

Mr. Hawkins reported that the Executive Vice President of the L. G. Balfour Company had presented a plan whereby the present jewelry prices could be held and the organization protected in case prices should go down.

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Hawkins, IT WAS MOVED BY LYNN LOOSLI, seconded by Dale Ring and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that our jewelry contract with the L. G. Balfour Company be extended for an additional two years, making the contract effective for a period of five years, ending September 1, 1960, at the current contract prices -- with the understanding that any decrease in cost would be passed on to the Future Farmer organization. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOHNSON, seconded by Mr. McDonald and carried, that the recommendation of the Board of Student Officers be accepted by the Board of Directors.

Dr. Spanton next called on the Regional representatives on the Board of Directors for any items of business which they might wish to present from their respective Regions. They replied that they had nothing specific to present.

Mr. Hunsicker made a detailed report on some problems in the State of Maine with respect to organizing and maintaining FFA Chapters in academies where vocational agriculture is taught. Because of conflicting rulings by two different Attorneys General, these academies for the present have been declared private schools and are, therefore, ineligible for Federal funds for vocational agriculture. The question then arises as to their eligibility to maintain FFA Chapters. While no formal action was taken by the Boards, Public Law 740 is emphatic that FFA Chapters can be maintained only in public schools qualifying for Federal aid under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts. Since no Federal or State funds are now used as reimbursement to these academies, it would appear that they are in a very unfortunate position so far as qualifying for the establishment of FFA Chapters is concerned. It was suggested that Mr. Hunsicker look into the matter further.

Dr. Tenney read a letter which he had received from Mr. L. M. Sasman, Chief, Agricultural Education, in the State of Wisconsin, who recently returned from an assignment in Egypt. Mr. Sasman suggested that it would be fitting for the delegates assembled in National Convention in Kansas City to send greetings to the Future Farmers of Egypt. Dr. Tenney thought it would be appropriate for the FFA to send greetings to all foreign countries where the Future Farmer movement exists.

IT WAS MOVED BY LYNN LOOSLI, seconded by Allen Colebank and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the delegates assembled in National Convention that greetings be sent from the 29th National Convention to all foreign countries where the Future Farmer movement exists. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. NAUGHER, seconded by Mr. Howard and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

A letter was read from Mr. R. C. S. Sutliff, Chief, Bureau of Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, Albany, New York, concerning a letter which had been sent to him by Mr. I. Yaffe, Advisor to the Future Farmers of the Givat-Ada Chapter, in Israel. Mr. Sutliff had forwarded this letter to Washington for the attention of the Board members. It contained the following proposal: The Givat-Ada Chapter of the Future Farmers of Israel would like to send one of their top boys to the United States to study the workings of the FFA on the local, county, State and National levels; the transportation costs, to and from the United States would be financed by the Givat-Ada Chapter; it was proposed that the New York Association of FFA pay his expenses while in this country; it was suggested that he visit in the United States for approximately six months, commencing in April, 1957; to repay the costs involved in his travel to and from the United States, this boy would have to act as leader of the chapter in Givat-Ada for a period of two years; furthermore, he would have to act for the same period of time as Advisor to other chapters of the Future Farmers of Israel. It was further proposed that, in return, the Givat-Ada Chapter, in full cooperation with the Farmers' Federation of Israel, would be prepared to act as host to one or two chosen boys of the FFA from New York State, paying all their expenses while they would be in Israel.

Mr. Sutliff stated in his letter that, inasmuch as the New York Association of Future Farmers of America is unable to undertake this project, the request from Israel was being referred to the National Organization for consideration. Mr. Sutliff did state, however, that if the project is undertaken, the New York Association would be glad to entertain a Future Farmer from Israel for one or two weeks during his stay in the United States.

After considerable discussion, IT WAS MOVED BY TERRELL BENTON, seconded by Lynn Loosli and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the National Organization of Future Farmers of America accept the invitation to serve as host to a representative from the Future Farmers of Israel; that Dr. Tenney work out the details in connection with this boy's trip to America as he sees fit; that Dr. Tenney first check with the Department of State to learn if they would finance the trip; if this can not be done, that the Board authorize the payment of his expenses from FFA funds while he is in the United States. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. HUNSICKER, seconded by Mr. McDonald and carried, that the Board of Directors approve the recommendation made by the Board of Student Officers.

Dr. Tenney next read a letter which he had received from Miss Marcia Lee, of Sausalito, California, in which she proposed the establishment of a new, special type of program for awards to "deserving boys -- those who have made progress despite hardships" -- the awards to be based on "merit" rather than "the best" or "the most successful". This matter was carefully considered by members of the two Boards.

IT WAS MOVED BY DALE RING, seconded by Lennie Gamage and carried, that because of the extensive awards program now in operation in connection with the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated, the Board of Student Officers does not deem it advisable to extend the awards program to other groups. IT WAS MOVED BY DR. TENNEY, seconded by Mr. Naugher and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

A discussion was held concerning the fact that there seems to be some misunderstandings about materials to be submitted on behalf of candidates for the American Farmer Degree, who are also to be considered for the honor of "Regional Star American Farmers". It was pointed out that additional materials (a story describing development of his supervised farming program, as well as pictures) are needed in the National Office for candidates who are to compete for the Regional Star American Farmer awards. This matter was discussed at some length, and it was suggested that a statement to this effect should be included, in bold face type, on the American Farmer Degree Applications when next printed -- and that State Supervisors of Agricultural Education be advised of this additional requirement for the 1956-1957 applications.

IT WAS MOVED BY TERRELL BENTON, seconded by Allen Colebank and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the following statement be included, in bold face type, on the American Farmer Degree Applications when next printed -- and that all State Supervisors of Agricultural Education be advised immediately of this additional requirement for the 1956-1957 applications:

"If the candidate is being recommended by the State for Regional Star American Farmer, it will be necessary for him to submit a story of not more than two pages, describing the development of his supervised farming program. In addition, he must submit photographs, not more than twelve in number, of his supervised farming program."

It was further suggested that Paragraph 10, Page 9, of FFA Foundation Bulletin No. 2, Revised January 1956, be corrected to include this requirement in the next printing of Bulletin No. 2. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. WEILER, seconded by Mr. Howard and carried, that the recommendation of the Board of Student Officers be approved by the Board of Directors.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

October 11,

The meeting was reconvened at 1:00 p.m., the morning hours having been given over to attendance at church services in which the National FFA Band and Chorus participated.

Dr. Tenney presented an insurance plan, submitted by Higham, Neilson, Whitridge & Reid, Inc., of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for members of the FFA. Their proposal was in three parts: (1) Year-round accident coverage purchased on a National basis; (2) Convention coverage on a per convention basis; and (3) Individual trip basis by use of a protectrip book. It was the sense of the group that it is the responsibility of the local chapters to provide some type of insurance for members attending the National FFA Convention. For that reason, no formal action was taken by the Boards.

It was suggested that the following persons, who were to address the convention, should be awarded the Honorary American Farmer Degree:

Major-General R. F. Cornwall
General Secretary
The National Federation of
Young Farmers Clubs
London, England

Mr. Hideto Shishido
Assistant Secretary General
Future Farmers of Japan
Tokyo, Japan

IT WAS MOVED BY LYNN LOOSLI, seconded by Terrell Benton and carried, that the Honorary American Farmer Degree be awarded to Major-General R. F. Cornwall of London, England, and Mr. Hideto Shishido, of Tokyo, Japan. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOHNSON, seconded by Mr. McDonald and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be approved by the Board of Directors.

It was announced that Dr. Herold C. Hunt, Under Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D. C., had been able to arrange his schedule so that he could address the FFA Convention. Therefore, IT WAS MOVED BY DALE RING, seconded by Allen Colebank and carried, that the Honorary American Farmer Degree be awarded to Dr. Hunt, of Washington, D. C. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. HUNSICKER, seconded by Mr. McDonald and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be approved by the Board of Directors.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in working out, in detail, plans for conducting the National FFA Convention, assigning specific duties to the individual members of the Boards of Student Officers and Directors for the entire week, and appointing committees.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

A. W. Tenney

A. W. Tenney, Secretary

W. T. Spanton

W. T. Spanton, Chairman