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REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
OF THE
FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA
1939

L. R. Davies, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education,
210 State Office Bldg., Denver, Colorado

To the members of the Pacific Regional Conference I wish to express my appreciation of the honor of again serving on the National Advisory Council. I recommend, in order to secure greater stability, continuity of policies, and the development of a long-time program, that regional members of the Advisory Council be elected for two or three years. I am not a candidate.

Further, I would recommend that the conference express it's opinion on matters of policy, so that your representative may more accurately represent the opinion of the region.

Immediately following the Pacific Regional Conference, I had the honor to represent the Pacific Region in the first of three meetings of the Council held in 1939. The report was prepared by Mr. H. C. Fetterolf, of Pennsylvania, and referred to the other three state members of the Council for corrections and comment. Differences of opinion will be readily recognized.

Mr. Fetterolf's minutes of the Council meetings follow, with my comments indicated in parentheses.

Report of the Meeting of the National Advisory Council of
The Future Farmers of America, May 18 to 22, inclusive
Washington, D. C.

1939

By H. C. Fetterolf, Chief, Agricultural Education-Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Personnel of National Advisory Council

The meeting was attended by the entire membership of the Council, made up of J. A. Linke, Chairman, the Regional Agents, Messrs. Lane, Spanton, Clements and Pearson, the representatives of the four respective regions elected by the State Supervisors and Teacher Trainers, Mr. S. M. Jackson from Louisiana representing the Southern Region, Mr. L. R. Davies of Colorado, representing the Western Region, Mr. L. D. Clements of Nebraska representing the Central Region, and myself representing the North Atlantic Region.

The United States Office of Education paid the expenses of the regional representatives to this conference.

Action of Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Future Farmers of America was called to Washington on Sunday, May 14, and spent the 15th, 16th and 17th in reviewing the applications for the American Farmer Degree. One hundred and eighty-nine applications had been submitted. The Board of Trustees approved one hundred and twenty applications. Forty-two of the remaining sixty-nine were classified as doubtful by the Board of Trustees and were passed on to the National Advisory Council for final action. Twenty-seven applications were rejected by the National Board of Trustees.

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Action of National Advisory Council

The National Advisory Council spent the forenoon of May 18 reviewing the applications that had been approved by the Board of Trustees. The purpose of reviewing these applications was to give

the National Advisory Council an idea of the standards set up in the minds of the boys regarding the qualifications of those who were to receive the American Farmer Degree.

The National Council devoted the following two days from Thursday noon, May 18, to Saturday noon, May 20, on the applications which had been classified as doubtful and those that had been rejected by the National Board of Trustees. Every application was carefully discussed and each qualification of the candidate examined carefully.

By a vote of the Council, forty-one of the applications classified as doubtful by the Board of Trustees were approved. One of the doubtful applications was rejected. Thirteen of the applications which were rejected by the Board of Trustees were approved by the Advisory Council. A total of fourteen applications were rejected by the Board of Trustees and by the National Advisory Council, making a total of one hundred and seventy-five applications approved by the National Advisory Council and a total of fourteen rejected. *out of 69*

Approximately twenty applications had simple mistakes in addition in making up the summary of the supervised farming program of the candidate in the columns on Total Debits, Total Credits and Labor Income on Page 5 of the application blank. The Board of Trustees approved all applications where the mistakes were less than \$50.00. They rejected all applications where the mistakes exceeded \$50.00. The attitude of the National Advisory Council was that a mistake was a mistake whether it appeared in the "cents" column or in the "dollar" column, that a mistake in addition was just as bad regardless of whether it was 1¢ or \$1,000. In some cases the mistakes were as high as a thousand dollars, but were purely mistakes of addition and there

was no evidence whatever of falsifying accounts.

The National Advisory Council took the attitude that since these were apparently simple mistakes in addition, the applications should be returned to the States for correction, and perhaps for an explanation. In so doing it would perhaps be a lesson to State Supervisors and local teachers and we hope in the future it would cause both State Supervisors and local teachers to be more careful and accurate. It was discovered that many of the applications, where the amounts exceeded \$50.00, were applications of some of the very best candidates in the United States. It was found that in the case of two applications the Board of Trustees, in checking the summary page, had made mistakes, one mistake of \$400 and on another a mistake of \$1,000. These applications were rejected because of these mistakes and the National Advisory Council found the original accounts to be correct. It was a very good example of impressing upon the National Board of Trustees that they also were not infallible but made mistakes in addition the same as others.

There was a great deal of discussion on the part of the committee relative to the clarification of these mathematical mistakes. It was, however, the opinion of the Advisory Council that the State Supervisors should be permitted to correct these mathematical errors this year and that it should not be considered a precedent in examining and passing upon future applications.

Supervised Farming Program

Many applications were classified as doubtful or rejected on the supervised farming program of the applicant. In discussing these applications, invariably the members of the Advisory Council turned to the Regional Agent and the representative of the Advisory Council from

that region for additional information and for their opinions as to whether or not the supervised farming program of the applicant was satisfactory or not. The many years of experience and the knowledge of the members of the Advisory Council regarding the agriculture of their regions was a valuable asset in interpreting the supervised farming programs from the various regions. The regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture under the Triple A and other regulatory acts were a vital factor in limiting the programs of a number of applicants. Apparently the Board of Trustees did not take these regulations into consideration.

Wherever an application was classified as doubtful or rejected by the Board of Trustees because of the supervised farming program, the Advisory Council discussed in detail the farming program of the applicant. In a number of cases the mature judgment of the members of the Advisory Council and their knowledge of the agriculture of the particular State from which the applicant came helped in making the decision of the Advisory Council. It was very evident that the lack of knowledge of the members of the Board of Trustees was the reason for the rejection of applications along this particular line. This in no way should be construed as a criticism of the Board of Trustees.

Cooperative and Leadership Activities

Item 8 of the factors that go to determine the qualifications of a candidate is "does the candidate show outstanding ability in leadership and cooperation?" This was a part of the application that perhaps provoked more discussion than any other qualification.

The questions:

- a. What constitutes outstanding ability in leadership and cooperation?

- b. May these abilities be in the fields of school activities, athletic activities, or must they be in strictly agricultural activities?
- c. Can the ability in leadership be separated from the ability to cooperate?

The members of the committee were not in accord on many of the items listed under cooperation and leadership. A great deal of time was devoted to a discussion of these two qualifications of the candidates. It was very evident that this part of the application needs interpretation and clarification. From the opinions expressed by the members of the Council it is a question in my mind at least, as to whether these interpretations and clarifications can be standardized to the satisfaction of many of our State Supervisors and also the FFA leaders. It seems to me that interpretation will have to be made by the Regional Agent and members of the Advisory Council from their respective regions.

Many leadership abilities were listed under Cooperative abilities and vice versa. It seemed to be the general opinion of the Council that in revising the application blank the abilities in cooperation and leadership should be combined under one heading. It was also brought out in the discussion that many good candidates would be denied the American Farmer Degree if they were required to be members or participate in the activities of an agricultural co-op. This is due to the fact that there may not be a strictly agricultural cooperative in the community in which the candidate lives. It may also be true that the membership in some agricultural cooperatives is limited to adults.

(The following is controversial. Your representative is of the belief that the paragraph is correct. Others say no formal action was taken. - L.R.D.)

It was also brought out in the discussion of the Advisory Council that only a limited number of boys can hold office in the State Association and, therefore, may be limited in opportunity to participate in the State Association activities. The National Advisory Council this year in interpreting FFA activities decided that participation in the program of work of the local FFA Chapter was participation in the State program of work. This interpretation was made because the State program consists of the programs of the local chapters.

Eligibility From the Standpoint of Time After Graduation

A number of applications were turned down by the Board of Trustees because the next FFA National Convention would be held more than three years after graduation from high school. The National Advisory Council approved all applications that came in this classification providing the candidate was a member of a part-time class. This interpretation was necessary because Article III, Section B, of the Constitution of the Future Farmers of America reads: "Active membership, any student who is regularly enrolled in an all-day, day unit or part-time class in Vocational Agriculture, etc." The Council also made a recommendation to the National Board of Trustees for the clarification of this Article in the Constitution.

Scholarship

The National Advisory Council recommended that the National Association change Article VI, Section E - 5 to: "be in the upper 30% of his agriculture class in all school subjects during the entire period of his secondary school instruction." The purpose of this proposal was to eliminate agricultural boys from competition with many girls in the large high schools and place the boys in competition with the boys of their own class.

No Additional Information

The National Advisory Council decided that no State would be permitted to submit additional information for a candidate after the application is submitted on May 1. The Council recommended that the application be returned to the State Supervisors and that they be asked to clarify or give a satisfactory explanation of mistakes in the addition of the summary of supervised farming practice and in one or two other cases where the ranking of a candidate in regard to scholarship was not clear.

Campaign of Education

Since many of the mistakes that appeared in the applications this year have appeared in the applications in years past, it was thought best to concentrate on a campaign of education with regard to filling out applications. The Council felt that in our attempt to obtain better prepared applications the new blank should be a little more specific in setting up standards and should contain some definitions and interpretations. They thought perhaps in some cases illustrations could be used to advantage.

(It was the belief of your representative that each State member of the Council would endeavor to educate Supervisors of his own region to the need for accurate applications. - L.R.D.)

Action of Council, Final

At the beginning of the conference and at various times throughout the conference the Advisory Council wished to have a very definite understanding with the National Adviser as to the disposition of all applications that were presented. It was the opinion of the large majority of the Council that their action should be final, and that the National Adviser did not have the power of reversing the actions of the Council in regards to any of the applications. The Advisory Council went on that

assumption in reviewing the applications and in all other actions taken.

Revised Application Blank

During the examination of the applications it was very evident that the application blank should be revised. It was the understanding that the State Supervisors through the National Advisory Council would be consulted on the revision of the application blank.

The meeting of the Council adjourned Monday, May 22, at 5 P.M.

Report of the Meeting of the National Advisory Council
of the Future Farmers of America held at Kansas City
October 15, 1939

This meeting of the Advisory Council was held in Dr. J. A. Linke's room at the Hotel Alladin. It was attended by the four regional representatives of the Council, Doctor Linke, Mr. Clements, representative of the Southern Region, Mr. Ross and Mr. Pearson, representing the Central Region, and Mr. Groseclose.

After a discussion which lasted four hours, the Council made the following recommendations to the delegate body of the Future Farmers of America:

1. That the scholarship requirement for the American Farmer Degree be changed so that a candidate, in order to qualify, must stand in the upper 30 per cent of his agriculture class in all subjects during the entire period of his secondary school instruction. (This recommendation, when voted on by the delegates at the Convention on Thursday, October 19, was defeated.)
2. That provision be made in the FFA budget to take care of the necessary expenses of the National Advisory Council. (An item of \$500 was approved by the delegate body to take care of these expenses, where

it cannot be supplied otherwise.)

3. That the application blank for the American Farmer Degree be revised along the following lines:

- a. That it be specifically stated in the instruction of the application for the American Farmer Degree that: "no addition or corrections will be accepted after the application is filed on May 1."
- b. That the States submit the number of applications to which their membership entitles them computed as of May 1 instead of August 1.
- c. That "the time limit of awarding the American Farmer Degree shall be three years after the first National Convention following completion of high school vocational agriculture classroom instruction or leaving school."
- d. That the two items on Page 1 of the old application, namely: "evidence of satisfactory participation in local chapter programs" and "evidence of satisfactory participation in State Association program" be combined into one heading to read as follows:
"evidence of satisfactory participation in FFA programs."
- e. That item "d" Page 4 which reads "How many years of Vocational Agriculture did you complete as a high school student -- as a part-time student" be eliminated from the blank.
- f. That the summary of the supervised farm program of the candidate include columns showing: Total Debits (A); Total Credits (B); Net. Paid Self for Labor (D); Total Project or Labor Income (E); for the various enterprises. Also a formula to check accuracy of figures $B - A = C$. $C + D = E$. "Total Debits includes "Paid Self for Labor."

- g. That in order to avoid duplication, the candidate combine and list under one heading his "Leadership and Cooperative Activities."

Meeting of the National Advisory Council held
at Kansas City, Wednesday morning, October 18.

The greater part of this meeting was devoted to a discussion of the purchase of the National FFA Camp site near Mt. Vernon. In this discussion the following factors were discussed:

1. The total cost of the land and whether or not the national treasury of the FFA can afford this expenditure.
2. As to whether the land under consideration for purchase would be a sound investment.
3. The cost of putting the site in condition for an FFA Camp.
4. The overhead expense in operating the Camp.
5. The possible use which would be made of the Camp.

After much discussion, the Council approved of the purchase of the Camp site. (Recently this tract of land has been purchased by the National Association of the Future Farmers of America).

It was agreed that the next meeting of the National Advisory Council would be held in Washington during the month of May and at the same time as the meeting of the National Board of Trustees of the Future Farmers of America.

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STAFF CONFERENCE

Memo - Beard - No. 23-A

Subject: Selection of American Farmers.

Present: Advisory Council.

Mr. Jackson moved that Council disregard transcripts for this year. Seconded by Dr. Lane. Lost by vote of 5 to 4.

Mr. Jackson moved that the council pass the application of Glenn Smith provided Mr. Clements investigates applicant's scholarship and finds that it meets the standards. Seconded.

Dr. Spanton moved to amend Mr. Jackson's motion by approving the application of the Wyoming boy on further investigation.

Mr. Pearson moved to amend Mr. Jackson's motion by approving the application of the Missouri boy. Seconded by Mr. Hall.

Mr. Clements moved that all motions before the house be tabled. Seconded and passed.

Mr. Clements moved that the Council advise Oklahoma to withdraw the application of Glenn Smith on account of discrepancies and that it be resubmitted another year. Seconded and passed.

Present: Advisory Council and Trustees.

Applications of American Farmer applications were examined and discussed. The trustees stated that they were willing to accept the Council's standard on accuracy but asked that the trustees' standards on leadership be accepted.

Discussion centered around these questions:

1. Must a boy participate in F.F.A. activities outside of his local chapter to have "outstanding ability in leadership and cooperation"?
2. Is participation in State program both leadership and cooperation?

This lead to questions whether the following kinds of participation constituted outstanding leadership and cooperation:

1. Participation in local adult programs.
2. Delegate to State conference.
3. Participation in State judging contests.
4. Attendance at State leadership conference.
5. Attendance at State camp.
6. Participation in 4-H Club activities.

Dr. Spanton pointed out that the constitution calls for two separate items and these were being confused, namely:

1. Participation in the activities of the local chapter and State association.
2. Show outstanding ability in leadership and cooperation.

It was generally agreed that participation in one activity of the State program satisfied the State participation requirements: that holding one local office satisfied the outstanding leadership and that one local cooperative activity was sufficient.

A question arose as to the proper base upon which to calculate the upper 40 percent in scholarship. Some had averaged the enrollment for the four years, others had used the senior year only. It was decided that all applications passed should be rechecked and eliminated unless the boy was in the upper 40 percent of the senior or highest class that he had reached in high school.