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Chairman: E. L. Giddings

WELCOME TO THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

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It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Agricultural Research Center on behalf of all our employees and the Agricultural Research Administrator. We hope that you have a very pleasant and informative session here. You have a pretty full program, I see, however you will only see a small part of what is being done here at the research center. I might give you just a few statistics and information about the research center itself. The first work, started in 1910, has grown through the years; the major growth has taken place since about 1933 when it was decided to create an overall research center here. We now have approximately 11 thousand acres devoted to research, primarily in agriculture. We have some 11 hundred buildings scattered over this 11 thousand acres, including chicken houses, hog pens, etc. We have about 23 hundred employees at the present time.

The primary function of the Research Center is to carry on fundamental research which will be applicable to all of the United States or to do fundamental research that would have its origin here and would then be taken to some state experiment station or some other location where it would be carried out to completion under the climatic and soil conditions that might be required in that particular area. The Agricultural Research Service has most of its headquarters here; for example, Crops Research have their headquarters here; they handle research in all of the 48 states and territories. We also have Entomology Research, Agricultural Engineering, Soil and Water Conservation, Animal Husbandry, Animal Disease and Parasitology, Institute of Home Economics, Soil Conservation, Agricultural Marketing Service, Forest Service Research, the Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has some research here, Geological Survey has quite a few people located here and the Bureau of Standards has some work at the Center. The Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of Interior has approximately 3 thousand acres adjoin the Center on which they are doing research with fish and wildlife. Before long the new Space Agency will be building here at the Agricultural Research Center.

So you see that there is an extensive amount of research being carried on here at the present time and in the short time that you are here you will see only a small sample of the type of work that is being done. I might illustrate this with a story even though Ernie Schreiner is in the crowd; all of you who know him know that story telling is his field. A minister was holding a series of meetings and the first night., when he saw that there was only one man sitting down front, the minister looked at him and said, "Brother, I was expecting a crowd and since only you came perhaps we better call this meeting off and tomorrow night we will try to get a bigger crowd. What do you think?" "Well," said the man, "I'm just an old cowhand, I don't know anything about preaching, but if I took a load of hay out to the pasture to feed the cows and only one cow showed up I think I'd give her something to eat." The minister got the point so he proceeded to give his sermon, talked for about an hour, and after he finished he looked down and asked, "Well, brother, what do you think now?" "I'm just an old cowhand, and I sure don't know anything about preaching, but if I took a load of hay out to pasture to feed the cows; and only one cow showed up I'll be darned if I'd give her the whole load." So I won't try to give you the whole load on the Research Center in this short talk. I hope that you will see research that will be of interest to you as well as informative.

We have a lot of buildings, land, and people here, and it costs a lot of money. Many of you are connected with research and know that research pays big dividends. We believe that research does not cost the taxpayer a cent. Dr. Shaw, the Administrator, stated before the Senate Appropriations Committee about two years ago that in the past 25 years the Department of Agriculture and the Experiment Stations have expended approximately one billion dollars on research but the annual return to agriculture and to our nation is approximately 10 billion dollars a year due to this research. So in one year we are getting a return of ten times our expenditures over 25 years. It's true our research expenditures have been stepped up greatly in recent years but in general our research is paying tremendous dividends.

We hope that you have two pleasant days here, If there is anything I can do to help I'll be glad to do it. My job as Superintendent of Research Center Operations is primarily to provide and maintain the facilities for research and among these responsibilities is the preservation of law and order; the County and State assumes no responsibilities here. However, the National Park Police have headquarters on the Center for patrolling that section of the parkway between Washington and Baltimore which is a Federal park, and they give us some help in our police operations. If any of you should get in trouble by speeding on the Research Center perhaps I can either cancel your ticket or I can give you quick service; the Federal Commissioner comes here every Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10:00 o'clock to hold court, so you won't have to travel far.

If during the course of your program we can give you any additional information we will be glad to help. Again I hope you have a fine meeting and come back again, soon.