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Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative

814 Tenney Building

Telephone 6-5312

MADISON 3, WISCONSIN

July 9, 1952

Mrs. Hazel Kuehn, Librarian
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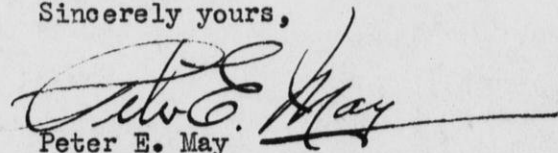
Dear Mrs. Kuehn:

Complying with your postcard request for publications of the Council in the nature of annual reports, we are submitting, under separate cover, the following material:

1. Mimeographed reports submitted by the executive committee to the conference for 1937, reports for 1939 through 1944 and 1946 and 1947. The reports for 1938 and 1945 do not seem to be available.
2. Printed reports for 1948 through 1951.

Our filing system has not applied any numerical volume classification. We do not know which reports you refer to on your card when you say you have volumes 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8. Since the Council was first actively conducting get-together conferences in 1928, we are assuming that those reports were prior to 1937. At any rate the material we are forwarding to you represents one copy each of all reports filed in this office that are available starting with 1937.

Sincerely yours,


Peter E. May
Ass't Executive Secretary

PEM:rb

P.S. Nothing else available between 1928 & 1937

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1938/39

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE
(Co-operative)

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND PLANS OF THE WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 1938, TO SEPTEMBER 1, 1939.

submitted by
MILO K. SWANTON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The period herein reported corresponds with the fiscal year of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture. At the beginning of this period 35 farm groups were in membership. At the close of this period (September 1, 1939) 38 Wisconsin farm organizations were in membership. The following became affiliated during this period: The Holstein-Friesian Association of Wisconsin; the Wisconsin Dairy Industries Co-operative; the Fox River Valley Milk Producers' Co-operative Association; and the Wisconsin Co-operative Poultry Improvement Association. During the year one organization, the Wisconsin Co-operative Milk Pool, withdrew because of a difference of opinion within its ranks as to whether legislation should be so written as to recognize the rights and problems of agriculture equal to those of labor.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

It was during this period that the tenth anniversary of the incorporation of the Council was commemorated at the Tenth Annual Farmers' Get-Together Conference held at the Milwaukee Auditorium, October 27, 28, and 29, 1938. On that occasion, a review of the past showed a growth from a handful of organizations to thirty-five member associations and revealed the fact that farm organizations can profit much by getting together for the general welfare of the farmers of this state. Beginning with the era of isolation, then suspicion, and finally understanding, the pageant presented at the Tenth Annual Get-Together Conference depicted graphically the ten years of accomplishments of the Council of Agriculture in developing a sound forward looking agricultural program in Wisconsin by creating a higher plane of inter-farm organization understanding.

TENTH ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER CONFERENCE

This event at Milwaukee continued the policy inaugurated at the Green Bay Conference of soliciting the interest of farm women. At the Milwaukee Conference, entertainment played a major role and the plan of getting talent from member associations, contributing such talent, was successfully tried. The main topics of interest centered around farmer-labor-industrial relationship, new phases of co-operation, governmental policies affecting agriculture, and meeting our dairy problem.

FIRST FARM CONFERENCE EXPOSITION

To add wider interest, an Exposition was provided for the first time through the facilities of the Milwaukee Auditorium. Nineteen exhibitors provided displays that broadened the attractiveness of the conference. A financial report of this Exposition is separately provided.

PROGRAM FOR THE COUNCIL

The objectives of the year as laid down by the resolutions at the annual meeting in Milwaukee, October 29, 1938, were:

1. Study the organization sales practices and price control policies of industry, paying special attention to the damaging effects of monopolistic price tendencies.
2. Study the farmer-labor relationship and develop legislation tending to balance the rights and responsibilities of both parties to labor agreements.
3. Federal farm credit.
 - a. Give worthy dispossessed borrowers opportunity to repurchase their own farms.
 - b. Extend time before beginning payments on principal of Federal Land Bank loans.
4. Develop greater understanding on the part of labor and industry concerning the plight of agriculture.
5. Endorse and support a federal dairy market price stabilization program as embodied in the program of the Dairy Products Marketing Association.
6. Actively support a national dairy promotion campaign of advertising, research, and market analysis as set up in the plan of the Wisconsin Dairy Industries Association.

OUTLINE OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The activities of the Council through its office at Madison, its special committees, and the work of its Executive Secretary have been varied and many. In outline form they were as follows:

1. State legislation. (Detailed explanation begins on Page 3)
 - a. Bills and resolutions written by the Council.....Page 3
 - b. Bills protecting payments due farmers.....Page 3
 - c. Appropriations concerning agriculture.....Page 4
 - d. State labor legislation.....Page 4
 - e. Marketing, grading, and quality.....Page 4
 - f. Co-operative legislation.....Page 4
 - g. Taxation bills.....Page 4
 - h. Truck legislation.....Page 4
 - i. Dairy products standards.....Page 4
 - j. Oleomargarine bills.....Page 5
 - k. Bang's Disease indemnities.....Page 5
 - l. Miscellaneous legislation.....Page 5
2. Federal legislation. (Detailed explanation begins on Page 6)
 - a. Federal Land Bank Loans.....Page 6
 - b. Federal Meat Inspection Act.....Page 6
 - c. Federal marketing agreement act.....Page 6
 - d. Agricultural surplus removal appropriation.....Page 6
 - e. Wages and Hours legislation.....Page 6
 - f. Burke Amendments to the Wagner Act.....Page 7
3. Co-operation and contacts with farm organizations. (Page 7)
4. Contacting business, service, and industrial groups.(Page 7)
5. Activities of Council of Agriculture Committees. (Page 7)

- a. Farmer-labor relationship study.....Page 7
- b. Survey of agricultural educational opportunities in Wisconsin.....Page 8
- c. Influence of corporate practices and monopoly upon agriculture.....Page 8
- 6. Special Committee activities, of the Executive Secretary. (Page 8)
 - a. Interstate dairy promotion.....Page 8
 - b. Weed and Seed Council.....Page 8
 - c. Co-operative Week Committee.....Page 9
 - d. Dairying as a basic commodity in the A.A.A.....Page 9
 - e. Rural Leaders Conference.....Page 9
 - f. American Country Life Association.....Page 9
- 7. Miscellaneous Council activities.
 - a. State Fair - farm organization exhibit.....Page 9
 - b. Radio activities.....Page 9
 - c. Transportation problems.....Page 10
 - d. Co-operation with state and federal agencies.....Page 10
- 8. Statistical SummaryPage 10

STATE LEGISLATION

Since this period includes the longest legislative session in Wisconsin's history, I will first present a brief summary of the Council's legislative activities. A detailed analysis of legislation will be submitted later in a special legislative report. During the legislative session which ended October 7, I appeared 57 times before State Senate and Assembly Committees and I took part in 58 conferences in support of 51 bills and resolutions and in opposition to 28.

(a.)

THE COUNCIL INITIATED 11 BILLS AND 1 RESOLUTION which were:

434, S. redefining oleomargarine, butter, and similar substitutes;

483, S. appropriation for state dairy laboratory;

550, S. providing uniform contribution to national dairy promotion campaign;

Jt. Res. 69, S. memorializing the United States Congress to support federal bill postponing payments on Federal Land Bank loans for 2 years;

154, A. Wisconsin Employment Peace Act;

197, A. providing fire-proof dormitories and educational building for the Farm Short Course;

223, A. placing "America's Dairyland" on automobile license plates;

561, A. to prevent bulls from running at large;

605, A. exemption of farm products from ton mile tax provision;

647, A. fluid milk market stabilization;

734, A. (similar to 550, S.);

842, A. protection of payments to farmers for dairy products delivered.

Of these the following became law: The Employment Peace Act;

"America's Dairyland" on license plates; redefinition of butter substitutes; fluid milk market stabilization; protection of payments to dairymen; and Joint Resolution 69, S.

(b.)

PROTECTING PAYMENTS DUE FARMERS. The session was significant in that it went farther than any other in attempting to protect payments due farmers for products delivered.

146, S. cannery bonding and licensing;

169, S. potato dealer licensing;

842,A. protecting payments for dairy products delivered; and
 331,S. licensing poultry dealers all became law,
 330,S. licensing livestock dealers failed.

(c.)

APPROPRIATIONS CONCERNING AGRICULTURE were made in

526,S. which provided for potato research;
 116,S. for tobacco research;
 925,A. \$80,000 for dairy quality campaign;
 479,S. providing a fire-proof seed house. An appropriation of \$1,500 for the Poultry Improvement Association failed as did the appropriation for the Short Course dormitories and the dairy laboratory.

(d.)

STATE LABOR LEGISLATION. 154,A., the Employment Peace Act, the passage of which carried out the principle of balancing the rights and responsibilities of both parties to a labor agreement, was one of the most difficult pieces of legislation in this session.
 44,A., Wages and Hours Bill, opposed by the Council, was defeated.

(e.)

MARKETING, GRADING, QUALITY. Such bills supported by the Council which became law were:

513,A. potato grading according to United States standards;
 460,S. fluid milk market stabilization;
 654,A. providing for special dairy inspectors;
 606,A. providing for state grading of Swiss cheese;
 579,A. requiring stricter qualifications for Limburger cheese makers;
 925,A. providing \$80,000 appropriation for additional dairy inspectors.

(f.)

CO-OPERATIVE LEGISLATION. Anti-cooperative bills opposed by the Council, all of which were defeated, included: 393,S., 737,A., 755,A., 850,A., and 860,A.

Other co-operative bills included:

482,A. which, in its original form, was opposed because it permitted a mere majority at an annual meeting to amend Articles of Incorporation. This bill was amended on the advice of the Council and was passed.
 333,S., allowing proceeds of co-operatives to be distributed to employees on the basis of their services rendered, was vetoed by the Governor.
 263,A. extending group insurance to co-operative members became law.

(g.)

TAXATION MEASURES in this session included:

621,A. providing for the taxation of R.E.A. co-operatives on the basis of 3% of their gross earnings which was supported by the Council and became law.
 908,A. exempting natural uncured cheese from taxation also became law. Measures providing a tax of 1¢ per gallon on lubricating oil and another providing a gross income tax on everyone, including farmers, were opposed by the Council and defeated.

(h.)

TRUCK LEGISLATION 444,A. providing a \$5.00 license fee on all farm trucks under 11,000 pounds gross, was supported by the Council and became law.

378,S., providing reciprocity for interstate trucks, was supported by the Council but failed to pass.

605,A. providing ton mile tax exemptions for agricultural products was overwhelmed by a railroad lobby.

(i.)

DAIRY PRODUCTS STANDARDS

1. Definition of malted milk powder, as written by the Council in

- 842,A. requiring no fat other than butterfat, passed.
2. 708,S. requiring that dairy beverages contain certain ingredients according to specific standards so as to prevent use of substitutes and substandard products passed.
 3. 316,S., requiring that partly frozen ice cream must meet the same requirements as frozen ice cream passed.
 4. 198,A. would have boosted the fat content of ice cream to 15%. It was opposed by the Council and defeated.
 5. 663,A., ~~opposed~~ by the Council and defeated, would have legalized substandard ice cream.
 6. 517,S., ^{which} in original form, would have repealed the filled milk statute, was opposed by the Council and failed to pass. 517,S., in final form, would have legalized the manufacture of condensed, dried, and evaporated skim milk in household size containers with no labeling requirement. Also opposed by the Council and was vetoed by the Governor.
 7. Joint Resolution 45,S., asking Congress to memorialize the shipment of high moisture cheese was opposed by the Council and defeated.

(i.)
OLEOMARGARINE LEGISLATION included

867,A. reducing the tax from 15¢ to 5¢ a pound which was opposed by Council and defeated.
923,A. would have wiped out all tax. It was also opposed by the Council and defeated.

(k.)
BANG'S DISEASE was of major consideration in this session. No organization fought harder for adequate appropriations to indemnify losses to farmers for cattle condemned under the Bang's Disease tests than the Council. Representatives of the major dairy breed associations were called in conference at the Council office even before the opening of the legislative session. When it was learned that our state would have to match Federal Bang's indemnity money dollar for dollar after May 1, 1939, the Council called those representatives of dairy breed associations into conference with Governor Heil. Bills 120,A. and 15,S. ^{which} provided for basis of indemnity comparable with the federal program and provided adequate indemnity funds, were supported by the Council. It is to be regretted that due to an economic urge and due to manipulation in the upper House, only a very reduced appropriation was provided.

(l.)
MISCELLANEOUS LEGISLATION supported by the Council which became law was:

709,A. requiring registration of livestock remedies;
862,A. amending the Soil Conservation District Law;
193,A. exempting one room rural schools from teachers tenure;
301,S. amending stallion registration law to include health standards;
410,A. providing rural electrification division in the Department of Agriculture;
173,S. basing high school tuition on actual cost with fixed limitations;

123,S. permitting other than pharmacists to sell agricultural insecticides and fungicides.

Miscellaneous bills supported by us that failed were:

207,A. licensing of electricians;

645,A. octane rating for gasoline;

622,A. providing cleared channel and improved facilities for state radio stations.

One of the miscellaneous bills successfully opposed by the Council was 789,A., placing a tax on bakery and dairy routes.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

During the past year federal legislation has commanded more Council attention than in any previous period.

(a.)

FEDERAL LAND BANK LOANS Bill S. 2877 introduced by United States Senator Wiley postponing for two years principal payments on Federal Land Bank loans was supported by our organization. In support of this measure, we wrote and had introduced Joint Resolution 69,S., which passed both houses of the Wisconsin legislature, signifying the interest and support of Wisconsin, and which memorialized the United States Congress to give support to this measure.

(b.)

FEDERAL MEAT INSPECTION ACT The Council supported the efforts of the Equity Co-operative Livestock Sales Association to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act so as to prevent the large scale country calf killers from demoralizing the market. By telephone, telegraph, and letter, the Council contacted federal and state officials, as well as farm leaders to assist in the passage of this amendment. Likewise in the spring of 1939, I contacted Wisconsin representatives in Congress warning them to defeat any move to repeal the above amendment.

(c.)

THE FEDERAL MARKETING AGREEMENT ACT, designed to bring about more orderly marketing of farm products, was found to be in need of clarification and amendment. In May, 1939, I attended a conference in Washington called by the National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation in support of Bill H.R. 6208. This bill includes 16 amendments to the act, designed to avoid litigation and to bring much needed stability to the interstate milk markets of the nation. Such stability, it is felt, will react beneficially on intra-state milk price structures.

(d.)

FEDERAL APPROPRIATION FOR REMOVAL OF AGRICULTURAL SURPLUSES providing \$113,000,000, one-fourth of which would be used for market stabilization of manufactured dairy products, was supported by me in Washington at the request of the Council's dairy co-operatives in membership with the National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation.

(e.)

FEDERAL WAGES AND HOURS LEGISLATION was opposed from the beginning by the Council of Agriculture. The proposed Norton Amendments would have inflicted the provisions of this act upon a greater number of dairy co-operatives in this country. These new objectionable features applied to all concerns if employing more than 7, if getting their supply of materials from a radius of 10 or more miles, and if located in a city or village of 2,500 or more people. I contacted all Wisconsin Congressmen in Washington and secured their promise of opposition to this measure.

(f.)
THE BURKE AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER LABOR ACT, being similar to the provisions of the Wisconsin Employment Peace Act, caused United States Senator Edward R. Burke of Nebraska to ask me to appear before the United States Senate Labor and Education Committee. My testimony given before that committee, May 23, a copy of which is available if desired, stressed the need for effective legislation in ironing out labor difficulties by balancing the rights and responsibilities of employees and employers. This testimony emphasized that improved labor relations can not be expected from a one-sided set of rules and that our major economic groups, including labor and agriculture, will lose unless a revised statute makes possible a fair and impartial handling of the problem. I stressed the vital effect of such legislation upon agricultural well-being. It was stated that this testimony of the Council was the first given in 6 weeks of hearings that urged such constructive provisions in the act.

CO-OPERATION AND CONTACTS WITH FARM ORGANIZATIONS

One of the fundamental purposes of the Council is to work with farm organizations. During the past year, in addition to conferences with farm groups, I spoke a total of 38 times at the annual or other meetings of the following Wisconsin farm organizations: Consolidated Badger Co-operative; Dane County Farm Bureau; Sauk County Farm Bureau; State Grange and local Granges; Wisconsin Dairy Industries Association; Pure Milk Products Co-operative; Land O'Lakes, District 20; Land O'Lakes, District 24; Wisconsin Dairy Industries Co-operative; Chicago Pure Milk Association; Manitowoc County Pure Milk Association; Wisconsin Swiss and Limburger Cheese Producers' Association; Madison Milk Producers Co-operative; Madison Milk Producers Co-operative Dairy; Farmers' Equity Union of Columbia County; Wisconsin Cranberry Sales Company; Wisconsin Co-operative Milk Pool; Equity Co-operative Livestock Sales Association; Richland Center Co-operative Creamery; Holstein-Friesian Association of Wisconsin; Midland Co-operative Wholesale; Eau Claire - Chippewa Falls Milk Producers; Co-operative Dairy of Bloomer; Verona Farmers Co-operative; Warrens Co-operative Fruit Growers' Association; Guernsey and Holstein Breeders Associations of Fond du Lac County; Guernsey Milk Producers (Waukesha); Tobacco Pool; and Wisconsin Cheese Producers Co-operative.

CONTACTING BUSINESS, INDUSTRIAL, AND OTHER GROUPS

One of the cardinal objectives laid down at the annual meeting in Milwaukee was to convey to other economic groups a realization of the plight of agriculture. This has been done by speaking to Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Men's Clubs, Church Clubs, Y.M.C.A. meetings, High School groups, F.F.A. Chapters, Wisconsin Manufacturers' Association, Federated Women's Club, and the Agricultural Club of Chicago.

ACTIVITIES OF COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE COMMITTEES

A FARMER-LABOR RELATIONSHIP STUDY was begun by a committee of Council Directors appointed by President Ihde in March, 1938. This group met from time to time contributing various angles of thought, experience, and information in the field of relationships between farm and labor groups. This committee met with economists, statisticians, public officials, representatives of various labor groups, and representatives of business, professional, and industrial groups. The 10 point labor resolution which this committee of the Council of

Agriculture submitted in the late summer of 1938 is well known. The Farmer-Labor Relationship Folder bearing a factual analysis of this relationship is also familiar to all. More than 15,000 copies of this folder were sent on request throughout the nation. The work of this committee led to the tentative drafting of Bill 154, A. Further conferences were held for joint deliberation with representatives of labor, industry, and business, and the final draft of the Wisconsin Employment Peace Act was written with the aid of Attorney Walter Bender. The passage of this act called for intensive work and only the constant support of this committee and the loyalty of the Council generally, made enactment possible.

A SURVEY OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY IN WISCONSIN was undertaken late in 1938 by a special Council committee. The report of this group clearly revealed that our state is blessed with ample, well distributed, factual education that is well adapted to the interests and needs of farm people and available to them at little or no expense. Vocational agricultural training is available to adults and youth in more than 200 high schools under the guidance of well qualified and well supervised instructors. Through the work of county agents, home demonstration agents, farm institutes, extension division classes, and adult classes touching every conceivable subject, ^{educational opportunities} were found to be available to rural Wisconsin.

A survey of the Council's education committee revealed that the W.P.A. so-called Rural Workers' Education program stressed a social propaganda type of instruction given by teachers and leaders whose qualifications in many instances were not adequate and whose philosophies were apparently biased. Such propaganda education activities prove that as the government ventures into new fields of social belief and experiment there comes an expanding development of federally paid craftsmen whose job it is to sell such philosophies to an unwary public.

THE INFLUENCE OF CORPORATE POLICIES AND MONOPOLY UPON AGRICULTURE was investigated by a special Council committee appointed in conformance with Resolution No. 1 adopted at the Tenth Annual Convention. This group met from time to time determined to get at the full effect of corporate practices and monopoly upon agriculture. On September 1, 1939, the work of this committee was still in progress. This survey stressed an investigation of the farm machinery industry and the detrimental effect of patents upon public welfare. The work of this group was not finished during this period. A preliminary report was prepared and the work of this committee is to be continued.

OTHER COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Interstate dairy promotion became one of the major activities of the Council during this period. Council Directors from dairy organizations and I, as Council Executive Secretary, assisted in organizing the Wisconsin Dairy Industries Association. I served on the original Tri-State Dairy Committee (Wisconsin - Iowa - Minnesota). I met with groups from other dairy states preparatory to developing a national organization. I have attended several conferences. I have spoken at meetings, and in every way possible, I have assisted the program of national dairy promotion.

THE SEED AND WEED COUNCIL of Wisconsin selected me to represent the Council of Agriculture on that state-wide body. As a member of the drafting committee, I assisted in preparing amendments to the federal act for the purpose of developing uniform seed legislation as a

(b) WEED AND SEED COUNCIL continued basis for uniform state legislation.

(c.)

STATE-WIDE COOPERATIVE WEEK COMMITTEE The Wisconsin Council of Agriculture again cooperated with the State Department of Agriculture in planning for state-wide cooperative week. Assisting with these arrangements, which made possible an appraisal of the objectives, problems, and accomplishments of the cooperative movement, was in harmony with the council's purpose of building and improving cooperation for the good of agriculture.

(d)

DAIRYING AS A BASIC COMMODITY IN THE A.A.A. was given attention during the year (Sept. 1, 1938 to Sept. 1, 1939). Our organization considered this proposition at two different meetings of its board of directors. President Ihde appointed a committee of six to assist the Farmers Union committee of seven in arranging for a state-wide mass meeting. This was held at the University Stock Pavilion April 3, 1939 for the purpose of affording Wisconsin dairymen an opportunity to better understand the proposal of including dairying in the A.A.A.

(e)

RURAL LEADERS CONFERENCE I served as chairman of the program committee for the annual Rural Leaders Summer Conference held July 18-19-20 at Fall Hall Glen near Black River Falls. The program dealt with rural welfare and delinquency, farmer-labor-industrial relationship, the role of government as affecting these relations, and rural-urban relationships. The contributions to the program made by speakers from the Council group and the support of Council organizations went far to make this Seventh Rural Leaders Conference a success.

(f.)

THE AMERICAN COUNTRY LIFE ASSOCIATION invited me to address the National Rural Forum held at Pennsylvania State College August 31, 1939. The theme of this National forum was "What's ahead for Rural America?" Together with a representative of the United States Chamber of Commerce and the American Federation of Labor, I discussed, from the standpoint of agriculture, the farmer-labor-industrial relationship.

7.

MISCELLANEOUS COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

(a.)

STATE FAIR - FARM ORGANIZATION EXHIBIT For the third consecutive year the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture was identified at the Wisconsin State Fair. The 1939 display was a combined exhibit made possible by many of our member organizations that occupied thirteen booth spaces. With a "sound" movie machine the Council brought to State Fair visitors a vivid exposition of the work of the many farm cooperatives that form the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture.

(b.)

RADIO ACTIVITIES, during the period covered by this report, included the regular Tuesday and Thursday one o'clock broadcasts over stations WHA and WLBL arranged early in 1938 by the Council of Agriculture for all of our member organizations. (These periods were concluded at the beginning of 1939 due to legislators taking up this radio time.) In addition to this the regular 12:45 to 1 o'clock period, assigned to the Council every fourth Thursday, has brought messages to thousands of listeners regularly throughout the entire year. Additional radio programs during the year included a special Labor Day broadcast, an Armistice Day feature, taking part in State-Federal Crop Reporters Program, and a special cooperative week broadcast.

(c.)

TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS During this period the oleomargarine interests began their drive for lower freight rates on their product than obtained for butter. The Council took a leading part in the efforts of the dairy industry to prevent such advantage in freight rates being given to oleomargarine. As a result of this concerted opposition, the hearings scheduled for April 1939 were canceled.

(d.)

COOPERATION WITH STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES was practiced by the Council during this period. On several occasions the Council cooperated with the College of Agriculture, the Rural Division of the State Board of Vocational Education, the Agricultural Extension Service, the Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

8. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF TIME AND ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY From September 1, 1938 to September 1, 1939.

DIVISION OF TIME

Time spent in paid service of The Wisconsin Council of Agriculture - - - - -	275 days
Time spent serving as member of The State Board of Agriculture and Markets (Salary paid by State) - -	37 days
Other time not spent in service of The Wisconsin Council of Agriculture (No salary) - - - - -	1 day

TRAVEL

By car, bus, and train, a total of 12,636 miles
(Mileage allowed on trips away from Madison only)
(Distance to and from office not included in above.)

CONFERENCES

Number of Farm Organization Conferences - - - - -	27
Legislative Conferences (not including Committee Hearings) -	58
Miscellaneous Conferences - - - - -	17
Total Conferences - - - - -	102

TALKS

Farm Organization Talks - - - - -	38
Radio Talks - - - - -	17
Legislative Talks (At Committee Hearings) - - - - -	57
Total Talks	112

MISCELLANEOUS

Preparation of reports, papers, and articles.
Drafting of Bills
Research on general economic problems, agriculture, and transportation.
Preparing exhibits and charts.
Issuing news letters.
General correspondence, interviews, and miscellaneous activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Milo K. Swanton

Milo K. Swanton
Executive Secretary

1939/40

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE
(Co-operative)

STATE DOCUMENT
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 1939 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 1940.

by
MILO K. SWANTON

This report is compiled to give a summary of the activities of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture for the period that is identical with the Council's fiscal year (September 1, 1939 - September 1, 1940). Incidentally, this period corresponds with the first year of the present world war.

During this period one organization, the Richland Co-operative Creamery, was admitted to membership, and the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture became an affiliate member of the National Council of Farmer Co-operatives.

STATE LEGISLATION

The last annual report included a summary of legislation which the Council initiated, supported, or opposed. The first six weeks of this period were taken up largely by activities in connection with the final days of the 1939 legislative session. During these final weeks of the session, many bills came up either for final action in the Senate and Assembly or for disposition by the Governor. This legislative period was the most crucial of the long 1939 session.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER CONFERENCE

The 1939 farm conference at the Loraine Hotel in Madison November 2, 3, and 4, was one of the most successful ever held. The central theme for discussion was, "Problems of Agriculture Beyond the Farm." Attention was also focused upon problems that might arise out of the new world conflict. The interests of farm youth were considered, and a farm women's luncheon was included in the program.

FARM CONFERENCE EXPOSITION

An exposition was held in conjunction with the eleventh Farmers' Get-Together Conference at Madison November 2, 3, and 4, which was arranged and managed by the Council itself. All exhibit space was filled in the halls and side rooms of the hotel, and all available space on the street in front of the hotel and extending to the capital square was occupied with heavy farm machinery.

FIRST FARM PRODUCTS COOKING SCHOOL

An added feature of the conference was the cooking school also sponsored by the Council with the co-operation of the State Department of Agriculture and the National Livestock and Meat Board. Only genuine meat, dairy, and other farm products were used in the menu. Member organizations of the Council furnished the prizes which consisted of genuine farm products.

OPPOSED MINIMUM AND UNIFORM RATES FOR CONTRACT HAULERS

Beginning December 12, 1939, and carrying through May 14, 1940, the State Public Service Commission held hearings for the purpose of

establishing rigid rates above a certain minimum to be charged by contract truckers hauling farm produce as well as other commodities. I appeared before the Commission at two separate hearings in opposition to this proposal pointing out that contract carrier services, such as hauling milk, dairy products, livestock, tobacco, fruit, wool, feeds, materials, and supplies, are at present closely adapted to the needs of farmers. These services are rendered under a wide variety of conditions. I pointed out that the suggested program would raise hauling costs and interfere with these well-adapted farm services.

OPPOSED LOWER FREIGHT RATES FOR OLEOMARGARINE THAN FOR BUTTER

At a hearing in Chicago before the Railroads Consolidated Classification Committee, I appeared in opposition to the oleomargarine interests who were requesting freight rates on oleomargarine that would average 37% less than the rates on butter. I showed that the two products are highly competitive, about equal in weight and bulk, and similar as to transportation hazards.

The Committee ruled against the request of the oleomargarine interests for reclassification; and, also, in the Western Trunk Line Territory and the states of Michigan, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Wisconsin established some specific rates to Chicago and Peoria, which give butter a slight advantage over oleomargarine.

JOINT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON FORESTRY PROBLEMS

I submitted testimony before the Joint Congressional Hearing on Forestry stressing:

1. The sane program for settler relocation under Wisconsin's plan of land zoning.
2. The need of developing a realization of the importance of the farm woodlot and its management by expanding extension aid in forestry.
3. The need for expanding a wood research program.
4. The dangers in the Walsh-Fulmer Bill which provides for government control of private woodlots.

COUNCIL ACTIVE IN FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

During the past year federal legislation and policies were given much attention by the Council.

1. FEDERAL PRISON LABOR LEGISLATION - Bill S. 3550 preventing the interstate shipment of prison-made goods was fought by our Council with the hope of completely blocking passage or of gaining amendments providing exemption for binder twine and farm machinery. We won the support of all Wisconsin Congressmen and Senators for our position. However, the bill passed both Houses. Our efforts to get the President's veto failed and the bill became law exempting only farm machinery parts.

2. FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION TRANSFER - We vigorously opposed making the Farm Credit Administration a dependent of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. We supported the bill to make the Farm Credit Administration an independent agency.
3. THE WALSH-FULMER FORESTRY BILL, which offered a federal program of government management and control of private woodlots and forest lands implying a taxation and indebtedness burden to be carried ultimately by the owner over which he would have no control, was opposed by the Council of Agriculture.
4. DAIRY PRODUCTS UNDER THE A.A.A. - I attended conferences called by other farm groups relative to the question of including dairy products as a basic commodity in the A.A.A. program, and at the request of U. S. Senator La Follette, I conferred with him on this proposal.
5. FEDERAL RESEARCH LABORATORY ON CATTLE BREEDING - The Council has given support to having the Federal Regional Research Laboratory in cattle breeding established in Madison.
6. FEDERAL WAGE-HOUR ACT - I have kept in touch with Congressmen and United States Senators urging clarification of the Wage-Hour Act and asking exemption for agricultural production and processing.
7. FEDERAL TAXATION OF CO-OPERATIVE RESERVES was opposed by the Council by taking a stand in support of co-operatives involved and by making known to government officials that agricultural co-operatives in particular could not endure such a handicap.
8. BITUMINOUS COAL RATES - The Council took a firm stand in protesting the matter of discrimination in the price charged for soft coal at the mine when shipped by rail.
9. PARTICIPATION IN MID-WEST AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE - I presented the non-partisan position of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture on federal policies affecting agriculture when I attended the Mid-West Agricultural Conference called by Governor Wilson at Des Moines, Iowa, on August 5.
10. THE RURAL-URBAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE held in Madison following a similar national conference called by Secretary Wallace was attended by me as a resource man.

Mrs. Swanton and Mrs. Dan McCarthy of Sun Prairie, who represented the Council in the conference, took the position that a conference of this kind should be devoted to a frank, honest discussion of the contributing influence, and responsibility of government, as well as agriculture, labor, and industry, in our present economic and social situation, and that such a conference should not be devoted to propaganda for any particular purpose, party, group or economic theory.

11. CO-OPERATED IN NATIONAL DEFENSE PROGRAM - I attended two mid-west conferences in Chicago called to discuss the position of agriculture in relation to preparedness and national defense. I was appointed as the agricultural representative to the Wisconsin Council of National Defense.

AID TO DROWNED FARMERS

The attention of the Council was called to the plight of many hundreds of farmers whose lands were flooded for two years without compensation because of the deepening of the Mississippi river channel by the Federal Government. The Council, jointly with the State Department of Agriculture, investigated the situation. I made surveys as to soil productivity, valuations, and I made estimates of separability damages. I brought the State Geologist into the problem and gained the support and assistance of university soils experts. I arranged conferences with attorneys, a meeting with affected property owners, attended hearings, and testified before the Federal Commissioners, in an effort to crack the high-handed arrogance and indifference of the U. S. Army engineers and appraisers and to dispel the feeling of hopelessness among the farmers whose land is involved. The Council is still helping in these cases for the purpose of getting adequate compensations and fair consideration for damaged property owners.

COUNCIL TOOK ACTIVE PART IN NATIONAL DAIRY PROMOTION

During February, March, and April, a major part of my time was devoted to the activities of the Wisconsin Dairy Industries Association. I spoke at 25 meetings held in connection with the dairy advertising program. I attended many conferences and meetings and boosted the advertising campaign when speaking at farm institutes, civic clubs, and farm organization meetings. I traveled more than 3,000 miles and took part in several radio broadcasts while working on this campaign.

CO-OPERATIVE WEEK

The Wisconsin Council of Agriculture assisted the State Department of Agriculture in planning for state-wide Co-operative Week. I arranged for the governor's proclamation and spoke over the radio on the subject of co-operation. I prepared and produced a half hour dramatic presentation of Grange history over stations WHA and WLBL during Co-operative Week.

RURAL LEADERS CONFERENCE

The Council was represented on the general Arrangements Committee of the 1940 Rural Leaders Conference, and Mrs. Swanton was Chairman of the Program Committee.

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE DAIRY CENTENNIAL

The Council, with the Department of Agriculture, planned and carried out the program for observance of the first co-operative cheese factory established 100 years ago near Lake Mills. This celebration took place at Lake Mills, July 20, 21, and 22. It included a three day program of music, entertainment, and speaking. An exposition, parade, and broadcast of the National Farm and Home Hour were other features of this celebration.

TAXATION STUDY

Because the farmer pays out a higher proportion of his income in taxes than any other individual, the Council decided to make a study of

taxation problems, sources of revenue, ways of equalizing tax burdens, and the public services that should be given first consideration from the standpoint of farm welfare and general public interest. The Executive Board met with members of the university faculty and a representative of The Taxpayers Alliance. Because the problem is intricate and far-reaching, the study is being continued with the idea of submitting basic suggestions to the Board of Directors of the Council which may serve as a guide in meeting such problems of taxation as may arise in the 1941 legislative session.

STATE FAIR

The year covered by this report ended with the completion of the Wisconsin State Fair. The Council arranged two tents which included an area 60 x 100 feet. This housed the exhibits of member organizations and served as a headquarters for farm co-operatives. During the fair the Council showed moving pictures of the various co-operative activities of its member groups.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

RADIO - The Council arranged for regular Saturday broadcasts under the title, "Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Quarter Hour" over station WLBL at Stevens Point, which many of our member organizations have used. The Council has maintained the regular monthly broadcasts over both state stations.

NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH - The Council assisted in setting up a Dairy Month Observance Committee for the state, arranging for dairy publicity and contacting every service club in the state, for the purpose of arranging programs in observance of National Dairy Month.

CONTACTS WITH CIVIC AND EDUCATIONAL GROUPS - During the year I appeared before several Rotary and Kiwanis clubs. I served on a Vocational Guidance Committee at the University of Wisconsin. I met with Future Farmer groups and talked to student organizations at the University.

FARM INSTITUTES - I spoke at 11 farm institutes on such subjects as farm organization activities, co-operation, and dairy promotion.

CO-OPERATION AND CONTACTS WITH FARM ORGANIZATIONS

I spoke at the annual meeting of 16 different farm organizations. I made the district meetings of the Equity Livestock Sales Association, acted as Chairman of a Committee of Producers and Dealers in an effort to iron out difficulties on the Madison market, and served as chairman of a committee appointed to review the set-up and activities of the Pure Milk Products Co-operative with a view to recommending changes, improvements, and consolidation with Central Grade A.

CO-OPERATION WITH STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES

During the year the Council co-operated with the Department of Agriculture, College of Agriculture, State Board of Vocational and Adult Education, and with County Agents.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

TRAVEL

Driving my own car (Mileage from home to office not included.)	8,567 miles
Riding with others	3,515 miles
By train and bus	2,260 miles
By plane	145 miles
Total distance traveled	<u>14,487 miles</u>

CONFERENCES

Total of 64.

TALKS

Total of 55.

RADIO BROADCASTS

Total of 29.

MISCELLANEOUS

Preparation of reports, papers, and articles.

Research on general economic problems, agriculture, transportation, et cetera.

Issuing news letters, general correspondence, holding interviews, and making appraisals.

Respectfully submitted,

Milo K. Swanton

Milo K. Swanton
Executive Secretary

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WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE
(Co-operative)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS OF THE WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 1940 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 1941.

Submitted by
MILO K. SWANTON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

This report summarizes the activities of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture for the period September 1, 1940 to September 1, 1941.

During this period three organizations became affiliated with the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture. They are the Dried Milk Products Co-operative with headquarters at Eau Claire; the Fox River Valley Co-operative Wholesale of Appleton; and the Wisconsin Guernsey Breeders' Association.

STATE LEGISLATION

This period includes the entire 1941 Wisconsin Legislative Session which convened January 8 and adjourned June 6. A total of 1, 378 bills were introduced. 350 of these passed both houses and 333 actually became law, 17 bills having been vetoed by the Governor. The 1941 session was short. During the 5 months of its duration, legislative procedure was rapid and work in following this legislation was necessarily intense. The session was marked by rapidity of judgment and bills carrying appropriations were difficult to move.

BILLS INITIATED BY THE COUNCIL

Bill No.

- 203,S. To appropriate \$250,000 for two Short Course Dormitory Units and Central Education Building.
- 198,S. To appropriate \$175,000 for a new Home Economics Wing, which would provide facilities for research in food and nutrition.
- 202,S. To appropriate \$350,000 for a Dairy Manufacturers Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin.
- 74,S. To require trespassers on farm lands to contact the proprietor at his home to gain permission for such entrance, placing the responsibility for determining legal entry upon the trespasser instead of upon the farmer.
- 291,A. Permitting examination of financial status by a registered as well as certified public accountant and requiring fidelity bond for person actually charged with responsibility of making payments to farmers for dairy products delivered.
- 451,S. Providing for standard seed and weed law.

Bill No.

- 433,A. To provide uniform state-wide deduction in support of dairy promotion.
- 463,A. - 75,S. Providing for fluid milk market stabilization.
- 647,A. Providing for examination and audit of milk dealers' records of purchase and sale, and various uses made of milk.

BILLS SUPPORTED BY THE COUNCIL

- 66,A. Exempting farmers using power machinery from safe place Statute.
- 52,A. To regulate sale of insecticides and prevent fraudulent insecticides.
- 99,S. Regulating the sale of explosives during war emergency.
- 241,S. Providing minimum standards of effectiveness for electric fences.
- 1,A. Providing repeal of the teachers tenure law.
- 252,A. Providing state supervisor of rural school music and promoting music in rural schools.
- 325,A. Providing standards in licensing of buttermakers.
- 326,A. Providing standards for the licensing of Swiss cheesemakers.
- 289,A. Providing standards for the licensing of American cheesemakers.
- 11,A. Providing for state grading of limburger cheese.
- 483,A. Providing sanitary standards of production as a basis for grade "A" labeling of dairy products.
- 167,S. Providing for truck reciprocity on the hauling of unmanufactured farm products.
- 592,A. Providing ton-mile tax exemption for materials hauled to dairy plants.
- 249,A. Providing ton-mile tax exemption for skim milk, buttermilk, whey, and unmanufactured agricultural products.
- 242,S. Permitting farmers and other consumers to haul gasoline in their own vehicles to their own farms up to 500 gallons capacity.
- 579,A. Appropriating \$175,000 for adult training in vocational agriculture.
- 621,A. Appropriating \$15,000 annually for research in dairy cattle breeding diseases.
- 208,A. Providing \$47,640 annually for the operation, maintenance, and improvement of state radio station WHA.
- 589,A. Permitting out-of-state renderers to buy dead animals in Wisconsin.
- 94,A. Requiring insurance companies to pay taxes on farm personal property.
- 11,S. Requiring malsters' books to show amount of malt and barley used from foreign countries.

BILLS OPPOSED BY THE COUNCIL

- 12,A. Taking the words "America's Dairyland" off the license plates and substituting "Vacation in Dairyland."
- 23,S. Providing for daylight saving time in Wisconsin.
- 196,A. Rendering plant monopoly legislation preventing farmers and fur farmers from using dead animals on their farms.
- 306,S. Abolishing authority of boards and commissions to issue orders.
- 517, A. Providing for sub-standard ice cream.
- 318,A. Providing household-size containers for dry skim milk.
- 159,A. Requiring owners to sign their names to "No Trespass" boards and be required to register in the county register of deeds office.
- 431,A. Requiring sworn statement to be accepted as security under the bonding and licensing law.
- 282,S. Providing Central Advertising Bureau to handle promotion for Department of Agriculture, Conservation Commission, etc.
- 88,A. Requiring double filament warning lights on motor vehicles.
- 131,A. Preventing the second use of cheese boxes.
- 572,A. Providing standards for licensing of bull dealers.
- 365,A. Setting up minimum wages and maximum hours.
- 186,A. Providing 40 cents per hour minimum wage.
- 17,A. - 113,A. Repealing the Wisconsin Employment Peace Act.

1941 LEGISLATION AFFECTING FARM PEOPLE THAT BECAME LAW

Chapter - Bill No.

- 1 (33,A.) Extending time for payment of real estate taxes to July 1.
- 14 (338,A.) Enabling County Boards to adopt federal surplus commodity stamp plan.
- 19 (34,S.) Puts creeping jenny on noxious weed list.
- 23 (11,S.) Enables examination of brewers' reports to show amount of imported barley malt.
- 24 (49,A.) No T. B. indemnity to be paid on cattle brought into the state that fail to pass the test; test not to be made within 90 days after importation.
- 26 (60,A.) Boundary fences not to be removed when crops would be damaged unless by agreement.
- 27 (91,A.) Abolishing imprisonment, lowering fine for hit run drivers.
- 31 (31,A.) Extending farm mortgage moratorium to April 1, 1943.

Chapter - Bill No.

- 34 (208,A.) Appropriating \$47,640 annually for operation of radio station WHA and \$15,750 annually for station WLBL.
- 35 (15,A.) Repeal of Painters' License Law.
- 46 (103,S.) Grants seniors high school diplomas if entering military service.
- 49 (35,A.) State Budget Appropriations Cost of State Government
- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---|--------------|
| Education | \$16,288,000 | University of Wisconsin | \$7,752,250 |
| Pension | 14,555,000 | Teachers' Colleges | 3,996,000 |
| Charitable | 4,559,000 | Stout Institute | 463,000 |
| Relief | 2,000,000 | Institute of Technology | 95,800 |
| Agriculture | 1,118,200 | Charitable and Penal | 9,577,990 |
| Miscellaneous | 304,200 | Boards, Commissions,
and Departments | 8,717,040 |
| | \$38,824,400 | Legislature & Courts | 1,516,540 |
| | | Miscellaneous | 758,218 |
| | | | \$32,876,838 |
- 63 (22,S.) Extends dividend tax, cigaret tax, gift tax, transfer tax, 60% surtax on individual incomes to July 1, 1943.
- 68 (32,S.) Repeals emergency chattel mortgage foreclosure law.
- 76 (242,S.) Permits farmers and consumers to haul gasoline up to 500 gallons in drums of 100 gallons or less.
- 117 (275,S.) Provides \$20,000 annually to build roadside parks.
- 119 (456,S.) Permits gas tax refund claims even though erasures and corrections appear on invoice.
- 120 (142,A.) Exempts from taxation machine dealers' stock of farm machinery.
- 124 (243,A.) Increased from 200 to 400 feet, distance from dairy plant to be made dust free.
- 128 (131,S.) Requires fencing--three barbed wires, posts not more than one rod apart to exempt slope woodlands from taxation.
- 155 (93,A.) Puts creeping jenny on noxious weed list.
- 172 (621,A.) Appropriates \$15,000 on July 1, 1941 and 1942 to University for research in dairy cattle breeding diseases. Reduces Bang's disease annual appropriation from \$190,000 to \$175,000.
- 183 (1,A.) Repeals the teacher tenure law.
- 206 (457,A.) Re-writes automobile drivers' license law, provides for examination of all new licenses and old licenses if Department desires; mandatory revocation of licenses upon conviction of manslaughter, negligent homicide, driving under influence of liquor or drugs, failure to stop and give aid, and perjury or false statements, habitual violation of state and local traffic laws. Enables commissioner to require proof of financial responsibility in certain cases.

Chapter - Bill No.

- 210 (848,A.) Repeals potato grading law. Provides for voluntary inspection by Department at cost.
- 217 (432,A.) Dairy product dealers to remit moneys direct to dairy plants; such plants or persons under bond to be responsible for payments to farmers.
- 221 (64,A.) Requires each county, town, village, city, school district, and all other public bodies with property taxing powers, to prepare an annual budget.
- 229 (403,A.) Requires duly witnessed and certified claim (formerly sworn claim only) in application for motor fuel tax refund.
- 237 (8,S.) Enables farmers to petition to construct drains through land of another for not to exceed twenty acres.
- 252 (203,S.) Appropriates \$200,000 for University Short Course Buildings.
- 267 (270,A.) Enables R. E. A. Co-operatives to serve schools, town halls, and rural industries, permits government agencies to become co-operative members.
- 268 (574,A.) Provides motor truck reciprocity agreements with other states in transportation of unmanufactured agricultural products.
- 273 (66,A.) Exempts farm labor and transportation of farm products from the "safe place statute" and other similar industrial commission regulations. (Otherwise farmers operating power machinery would have liability equal to industrial plants.)
- 274 (94,A.) Requires insurance companies to pay taxes on farm personal property.
- 313 (451,S.) Provides uniform standard seed and weed law. Enables Department of Agriculture to extend primary and secondary noxious weed lists. Provides for seed testing at cost, etc.
- 325 (647,A.) Provides State Department examination and audit of milk dealers' records showing classifications of milk according to uses.

12TH FARMERS' GET-TOGETHER CONFERENCE

The 1940 Get-Together Conference held at the Loraine Hotel in Madison hinged on the theme, "Effect of World Conditions on American Agriculture." The morning session reviewed the practical operation of laws sponsored by the Council, such as the Employment Peace Act and the Wisconsin Bonding and Licensing Law, both written by the Council. Feeding and equipping our military forces, foreign agricultural relations, and the responsibility of citizens in the world crisis were also

considered on the day's program. The 1940 Conference included the interests for farm youth and a women's noon luncheon featuring art. The evening banquet stressed sound co-operative objectives.

FOUGHT PREFERENTIAL FREIGHT RATES FOR OLEOMARGARINE

As the only agricultural representative appearing before the Central Freight Association Committee in Chicago on January 7, 1941, I urged that any reduction given one competing product should be given equally to the other. I cited the fact that from the standpoint of physical hazards, the railroads could not equitably grant a lower rate for oleomargarine than for butter. The oleo case was presented by a battery of attorneys, statisticians and scientists. The oleo presentation involved many exhibits and was designed to prove that butter and oleo are not competitors and that oleo was never designed to be a spread. I cited the nature of the advertisements gotten out by the oleo people and I cited statistics to prove that the per capita consumption of oleo and butter definitely react upon each other. I made it clear to the railroad representatives that since a far greater tonnage of butter is hauled by them, it would not be to their interest to jeopardize the hand that is feeding them. I also pointed out that dairy supplies, materials, machinery and other goods used directly or indirectly in the dairy industry mean much to the railroads. The request of the oleo people was not granted.

STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE PARTICIPATION

I was appointed to serve with representatives of industry, labor, transportation, business and law enforcement bodies as a member of the Wisconsin Council of Defense to assist in co-ordinating state defense activities with the federal defense requirements. As the agricultural representative on this body, I have attempted at all times to maintain the interests of Wisconsin farm people in the program of national defense, placing emphasis at all times upon the basic necessity of agriculture in the national defense program. In the activities of this body, I conferred repeatedly with the State Advisor of Selective Service in an effort to gain full consideration in the matter of deferment for agricultural workers. In the

creation of the Agriculture Committee of the State Defense Council, I was made Chairman. In working with this group, I have given considerable time and effort to get adequate priorities and allocation of materials for agricultural machinery, dairy equipment, and supplies.

I have also served on the State Milk Diversion Committee, assisting wherever possible in bringing about a more orderly diversion of milk to the uses most needed in the program of national defense.

OLEOMARGARINE STANDARDS

A month prior to the announcement of the new oleomargarine standards, this office publicized the nature of the forthcoming standards, doing everything possible to line up wide-spread opposition to the forthcoming oleo announcement. I have represented the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture on the United Dairy Committee which has met from time to time in Chicago. I have assisted wherever possible in co-operation with the Wisconsin Dairy Industries Association, the American Dairy Association, the United Dairy Committee, and the Four-State Dairy Protective Committee, to oppose the new federal standards for oleomargarine and to bring about sentiment that might result in standards for oleomargarine set by legislation that would be fair to the butter industry.

DEFENSE SAVINGS STAFF

As a member of the Defense Savings Staff, I have assisted in setting up County Defense Savings Bond Committees and in promoting investment in Defense Savings Bonds wherever feasible as a means of preventing inflation and for the purpose of inducing sound investment so essential for the emergency days to come.

NATIONAL NUTRITION CONFERENCE

I was invited as a delegate to attend the National Nutrition Conference, held in Washington, D. C., May 26, 27, and 28. A separate detailed report of this Conference is available, which makes it clear that a sound cause for action was seized upon by certain food processors as well as social reformers to further their own objectives. Nevertheless, farmers must recognize the far-reaching future effect

this Conference may have upon their welfare, inasmuch as the Conference recommended many social reforms only remotely related to the nutrition problem and offered a hand of blessing to the fortification of cheap foods with synthetic vitamins and boldly recommended substitutes in the new pattern of nutrition.

WISCONSIN CO-OPERATIVE WEEK

The Wisconsin Council of Agriculture co-operated with the State Department of Agriculture and other farm organizations in planning for the state-wide Co-operative Week program. With Mr. Fisher of the Department of Agriculture, I contacted various sections of the state for the purpose of arranging programs and signalizing the importance of the Co-operative Week program.

RURAL LEADERS' CONFERENCE

The Council took an active part in making arrangements for the 1941 Rural Leaders' Conference held at Mauston, Wisconsin. Mrs. Swanton served on the program committee and the Council took a most active part in supporting the Conference and securing the attendance of farm organization representatives at the Conference. This 1941 Rural Leaders' Conference took a fearless position in opposition to the political activities closely affiliated with certain federal agencies in the United States Department of Agriculture.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

STATE FAIR DAIRY DAY - The Council assisted in making arrangements for Dairy Day at the 1941 State Fair. Due to the pressure of activities in conjunction with the oleo fight and assistance with national defense activities, the Council did not arrange for special State Fair exhibits.

RADIO - The Council maintained regular monthly broadcasts over State Stations WHA and WLBL and, in addition, prepared special broadcasts under the title, "The Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Quarter Hour," which were broadcast from Stevens Point.

FARM INSTITUTES - During the winter of 1940 and 1941, I assisted on several Farm Institute programs stressing co-operation and dairy promotion as well as considering defense problems facing agriculture.

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WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE
(Co-operative)

STATE DOCUMENT
WIS. LEG. REF. LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WISCONSIN
COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 1941 TO AUGUST 31, 1942

Submitted by
MILO K. SWANTON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

This period has been marked by the greatest degree and the widest variety of activity that the Council has ever experienced. The war brought new developments in rapid succession. There were numerous calls to meet with committees and to confer with emergency groups, state and federal, regarding defense activities. It was a period filled with new trends and new movements, as well as the usual routine of meetings, talks, and conferences. There was no state legislative session during this period. However, federal legislation, rules, and regulations required more than the usual amount of Council attention. During this period there has been great need for inter-organization cooperation.

DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE - As a member of the State Council of Defense, I have made every possible effort to protect the interests of agriculture in the program of national defense and in the activities of the Office of Civilian Defense. I have emphasized at all times the vital importance of food and fiber in the successful prosecution of the war and as ammunition for diplomatic relations.

CITIZENS' SERVICE CORPS - I was appointed to represent agriculture on the State Citizens' Service Corps, organized under the Wisconsin Council of Defense in connection with meeting problems of food and war goods production, civilian morale, and manpower availability.

FARM LABOR COMMITTEE - As the Council of Agriculture representative, I served with the State Defense Council Labor Committee, carrying out the request of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture by enlisting the support of the state's educational authorities in helping to meet seasonal farm labor requirements. As Chairman of the State Defense Council's general state-wide Farm Labor Committee, I have worked to help meet the year-around farm labor shortage as well as the seasonal farm labor problem.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS INSTITUTE - As a member of the Public Affairs Institute Committee, I assisted in making arrangements for the series of Public Affairs Institutes held in various parts of the state during May. These institutes were conducted for the purpose of considering civilian war problems, such as taxation, civilian morale, inflation, and the maintenance of war goods and food production.

WAR SAVINGS STAFF - Having been appointed to represent agriculture on the State War Savings Staff, I have helped to encourage investments, as much as possible, by rural people in War Savings Bonds and Stamps.

VOCATIONAL DEFENSE TRAINING - Along with representatives of three other state-wide farm organizations, I have served on the Advisory Committee to the State Board of Vocational Education dealing with the training of people for defense activities. This advisory group has also assisted in a program of Americanization in the training of aliens.

ACTIVITIES RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS

OPPOSED RAILWAY FREIGHT INCREASES IN WISCONSIN - On March 25, I appeared before the State Public Service Commission in opposition to the proposed 6% freight rate

increase on cheese and evaporated milk as requested by the Steam Railroads of Wisconsin.

OPPOSITION TO INTERSTATE RAILWAY FREIGHT INCREASES - On April 22 I appeared in Chicago before the Committee of twenty-one Railway Executives, authorized to consider adjustments under the Interstate Commerce Commission Order relating to increased freight rates on cheese and evaporated milk carried in interstate shipments. At this time I presented a statement opposing the proposed increase, pointing out that at that time milk prices were declining, farm production costs were increasing, and that the proposed 6% freight increase on cheese and evaporated milk was twice as great as the increase proposed on any other food product.

FARM TRUCKING PROBLEMS - While in Washington on April 29, W. L. Witte and I conferred with the Office of Defense Transportation relative to future truck transportation regulations. Later in Chicago I attended a conference called by the Office of Defense Transportation for the purpose of considering reduction of truck miles to conserve rubber. At that time I urged that extreme care be exercised and that a practical viewpoint be maintained so as not to weaken the bargaining power of farm organizations or cause too much regimentation over farmers in the marketing of livestock and other farm products. I later took part in conferences for the purpose of getting more consideration for farm truckers under the Selective Service Act.

OPPOSED UNITED MINeworkers' INVASION OF DAIRY INDUSTRY

With the first rumors that John L. Lewis and his United Mine Workers would invade the dairy industry of America, the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture went on the alert to gain as much factual information as possible. Contacts were made with dairy leaders in Michigan and New York, as well as with the Free Farmers, Incorporated and the New England Co-operative Council. The propaganda and methods employed by the United Mine Workers, District #50 were studied, and on March 9 a state-wide conference of Wisconsin farm leaders was arranged by the Council. That conference unified and co-ordinated the opposition among dairy groups and farm organizations to the U. M. W. activities. The Council arranged another such meeting at Mauston June 11. The Council has since taken the lead in a program of resistance, helping to build support for co-operatives and farm organizations and helping to enlighten farmers as to the many services rendered by their own tried and true organizations as compared with the empty promises of the would-be dairy saviours - the U. M. W., District #50.

1941 GET-TOGETHER CONFERENCE

PROGRAM - The Thirteenth Annual Farmers' Get-Together Conference was held in La Crosse at the Vocational School Auditorium and the Stoddard Hotel, November 13 and 14. The theme of the Conference was, "Agriculture - Its Present and Post-War Problems." In his opening message, President Hutter stressed the important functions of farmer co-operatives during the war emergency. The future of livestock marketing and the post-war problems that agriculture might face were stressed during the forenoon session. At the noon luncheon, the importance of dairy products in the diet was explained by Dr. Henry T. Scott. The policies of the Council and the fight against butter substitutes featured the afternoon session. A tour to the Soil Erosion Control Station at Grandad's Bluff preceded the evening banquet which included the "Heart of the Butter Bowl" Presentation stressing the fact that western Wisconsin is in the "Heart of America's Butter Bowl." John Brandt pictured the farmer in the present emergency.

THE BUSINESS SESSION on November 14 met for the first time with the enlarged delegate body. Seventy-six delegates were present. Resolutions pledged loyal support to national defense, prevention of unfair oleomargarine practices, release of stored wheat surpluses for feeding purposes, the establishment of price ceilings on

agriculture when comparable price ceilings are established for industry and labor, support for dairy promotion and research activities, interstate reciprocal agreements for rendering plants, adequate allocation of materials for farm machinery, imposition of sanitary import restrictions, and extension of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent interest rates on Federal Land Bank and State Annuity Board Loans. Resolutions were passed commemorating the contributions to Wisconsin agriculture made by Archie Brovold and R. M. Orchard.

TAXATION

During the year it was agreed that before the next legislative session, a committee should be appointed to study taxation problems. The study, which has only begun, included the question of over-all real estate tax limitations and the importance of providing funds to meet such needs as education, research, and the proper care of unfortunates. Equalization of the tax burden, broadening of the tax base, and means of making taxation and good government more directly felt by more people are being considered.

SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

OPPOSED SAUK PRAIRIE FOR U. S. POWDER PLANT - The Council opposed the use of fertile Sauk Prairie for the U. S. Powder Plant. - Use of Sauk Prairie was considered to be contrary to good land zoning because other less fertile areas were available with good power, transportation, population, and topography advantages, and because taking Sauk Prairie would block out an excellent food producing area.

A. A. A. REGIONAL CONFERENCE - I represented the Council at the regional A. A. A. planning conference in Chicago held for the purpose of setting up 1942 production goals. At this Conference I urged that government wheat not needed for milling be released for feed purposes, and that corn planted for silage should not be included in corn allotments.

COOPERATION WITH VARIOUS DAIRY GROUPS - The Council co-operated with the United Dairy Committee of which I have been a member. I worked with the National Dairy Union in opposition to dairy substitutes and with the Wisconsin Buttermakers' Association with respect to milk diversion. I took part in the program of the University of Wisconsin Dairy Manufacturers' course. I assisted the Wisconsin Swiss and Limburger Cheese Producers' Co-operative against the efforts of the Internal Revenue Department to levy back taxes on member cheese factories. I contacted U. S. Senators and Congressmen as well as the Federal Food and Drug Administration, urging federal standards for ice cream comparable with Wisconsin's standards.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON

COMPARABLE PRICE CEILINGS - In January, I went to Washington to work with the National Milk Producers' Federation, the National Council of Farmer Co-operatives, and representatives of other farm organizations in an effort to have price ceilings established on wages, salaries, and industrial goods, as well as on agricultural products. At that time, we supported the 'wage parity index formula' designed to keep farm prices more in line with wage rates and industrial prices.

CONFERENCE WITH HENDERSON REGARDING DECREASE IN FARM PRICES APRIL 29 - Because price of milk going into cheese and evaporated channels had dropped about 13 per cent from January 30 to March 15, I went to Washington in April with farm representatives from Wisconsin and Michigan, at the request of the Producers' Committee of the National Evaporated Milk industry in an effort to prevent any further lowering of milk prices. We pointed out that this would curtail future production, handicap farmers, and strengthen the efforts of the United Mine Workers to invade our dairy

industry.

APPEARANCE AT PUBLIC HEARINGS

RENDERING PLANT RECIPROCITY - I appeared on two separate occasions presenting factual information to the State Board of Health in support of granting reciprocity to out-of-state rendering plants, whenever the laws of adjoining states relative to livestock sanitation were comparable with our own. This was in harmony with the resolution passed at the last Annual Meeting for the purpose of breaking the rendering plant monopoly and giving farmers fairer returns.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION - I appeared on March 25 in opposition to proposed freight rate increases on cheese and evaporated milk.

BEFORE RAILWAY EXECUTIVES - I appeared at the hearing in Chicago, April 22, before twenty-one railway executives authorized by the Interstate Commerce Commission to consider freight rate increases on cheese and evaporated milk.

CO-OPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

COOPERATIVE WEEK - As a member of the State Co-operative Week Committee, I assisted in arranging radio and other programs designed to stress the advantages and the significance of the co-operative movement in Wisconsin.

COOPERATIVE INSTITUTES - I spoke on the programs of several Co-operative Institutes and I appeared at the Annual Meetings of a number of Wisconsin farm co-operatives.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION - We at the Council office exerted efforts to have the State Department of Education put co-operative teaching on a sound, practical, business-like basis. We enlisted the aid of sound co-operative leaders and opposed certain influences that were attempting to have co-operative education put upon an unsound, propaganda basis.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL

SELECTIVE SERVICE - I worked particularly with Col. Cuno and officials of the State Selective Service Headquarters urging as a sound basic policy, the deferment of those essential to agriculture's war effort.

RURAL ORGANIZATION LEADERS' CONFERENCE - The Council co-operated with the Rural Sociology Department, College of Agriculture, in arranging the Rural Leaders' summer conference, held at Mauston, June 9, 10, and 11. Mrs. Swanton was a member of the Program Committee for this Rural Organization Leaders' Conference.

FARM INSTITUTES - I co-operated with the Agricultural Extension Service by appearing on several Farm Institutes, advocating fair price ceilings for farm products, opposing the invasion of dairy substitutes, and stressing membership loyalty to existing farm organizations and cooperatives as against the John L. Lewis movement.

NATIONAL DAIRY PROMOTION - This year, as in the past, the Council co-operated with the efforts of the American Dairy Association and the National Dairy Council to increase the consumption of milk, cheese, butter, evaporated milk, and ice cream.

TRESPASS PROBLEMS - We assisted individual farmers and a few cranberry growers in their efforts to halt losses due to trespassing.

HONEY INDUSTRY - I worked with some of the leaders in the honey industry relative to publicizing the health values of honey and the use of honey as a substitute for sugar.

STATE FAIR - I served on the State Fair Dairy Day Committee and on the State Fair Poultry Committee in preparation for the 1942 Wisconsin State Fair.

RADIO - The Wisconsin Council of Agriculture has maintained regular monthly broadcasts throughout the year over State Stations WHA-WLBL. In addition to this, I took part in five other special broadcasts during the year.

JOINT MANAGEMENT WITH WISCONSIN DAIRY INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

On January 1, 1942, in accordance with an agreement reached December 23, 1941, between the Executive Committees of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture and the Wisconsin Dairy Industries Association, I assumed the position of General Manager of the Wisconsin Dairy Industries Association, with the understanding that I would devote one-third time to W. D. I. A. and two-thirds to the Council. To make office supervision more effective, the W. D. I. A. headquarters were moved to the sixth floor of the Tenney Building next to the Council office and Mrs. Swanton was assigned the responsibility of office management and the keeping of financial records for both the W. D. I. A. and the Council. The affairs of the two organizations, their policies and their activities, as well as their accounts, have been handled on an entirely separate basis. Therefore, this report applies only to my activities in connection with the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture. Also, the summary of events and activities submitted herewith applies only to the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF MY COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

	<u>Miles</u>
<u>TRAVEL</u> - Driving my car (Mileage home to office not included).....	6,188
Riding with others.....	2,536
By train and bus.....	5,765
By Aeroplane.....	140

Total distance traveled.....14,629

CONFERENCES - 56

TALKS - 60

HEARINGS - 4

RADIO BROADCASTS - 16

COMMITTEE MEETINGS - 28

GENERAL OR ANNUAL MEETINGS (I Attended Not As Speaker) - 9

MISCELLANEOUS - Preparation of reports, articles, and news releases. Work in connection with questions and problems relating to transportation, education, defense, agricultural economics, etc. Correspondence, interviews, etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to this summary of activities, I venture to make a few suggestions based on observations up to the present. The Wisconsin Council of Agriculture and its affiliate members will, of course, continue to make every possible effort to co-operate with our nation's war program. In this co-operation, let us work more as advisors and leaders taking part whenever possible in the formation of plans and policies affecting agriculture. Let us work to make the Council of Agriculture a bulwark for stronger farm organizations and co-operatives as our best means of maintaining the independence of agriculture and as an antidote

against any threatened invasion of our dairy industry by the United Mine Workers, District #50.

Let us consider it an obligation to inform citizens and government officials relative to the basic importance of agriculture. To do this, we must aid in a broad educational campaign concerning the problems of agriculture. Let us continue to insist that the best way to prevent inflation is by the nation-wide adoption of equalities of sacrifice and opportunity for all groups and classes. Let us be ever mindful in this present war emergency that our first job is in the field of sustained production. Let us insist that this production can be maintained by a practical approach to the problem of manpower shortage and by adopting an equitable price policy as between agriculture, industry and labor. Let us think carefully and clearly and act accordingly on the proposed program of farm price subsidy and farm labor subsidy.

Let us consider an adequate supply of farm machinery and farm machine parts as being just as basic to food production as the machine tool industry is to the production of defense materials. Let us fight to maintain our dairy standards and, if necessary, accept a program of rationing rather than a reduction of our butterfat standards in dairy products. Let us give thorough consideration to the problems of taxation. Let us assist in the development of co-operative teaching on a sound, practical, educational basis rather than on the basis of unsound propaganda. Let us keep in mind that our farm organizations are needed today more than ever. They need strength through our loyalty. Those in charge of the prosecution of this war need the sound advice of agriculture and its leaders in this time of emergency.

Respectfully submitted,

Milo K. Swanton

Milo K. Swanton
Executive Secretary

1942/43

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES
AND PROGRAMS OF THE WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE PERIOD
SEPTEMBER 1, 1942 TO AUGUST 31, 1943

SUBMITTED BY MILO K. SWANTON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The period covered by this report has been marked by intense and varied activity. During this period we have had a state legislative session. At the same time, because the well-being of our Wisconsin agriculture has been greatly affected by federal legislation and programs, it has been necessary to follow federal policies and activities. In addition to these events have come many war related activities also affecting Wisconsin agriculture that have absorbed considerable time and attention.

NEW MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

During this period 4 organizations became affiliated with the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture.

1. Insurance Co-operative Agency which services ^{co-operatives} in all types of insurance coverages required of co-operatives.
2. Wisconsin Dairymen's Association: a state-wide organization of dairymen devoted to bettering the home, the income, and the living of Wisconsin farm people.
3. Cash Crops Co-operative: newly organized to bring together, for the purpose of collective bargaining and mutual market improvement, the producers of canning crops.
4. The Wisconsin Live Stock Breeders' Association: interested in the improvement of various livestock breeds and concerned with developing youth interest in better strains of livestock.

STATE LEGISLATION

The 1943 Wisconsin legislative session convened January 13, 1943. It recessed June 18 and reconvened July 13 and August 3, with skeleton sessions on June 25, July 2, and July 9. A total of 1134 bills were introduced. 560 of these became law. A significant feature of the 1943 session is the fact that there has been no adjournment. Hence, independent of the Governor, the Wisconsin legislature is expected to convene again early in January, 1944. The early half of the 1943 session moved in an orderly, businesslike manner. Later on, friction developed between the Governor and the majority party and an outstanding number of vetoes were overridden by the legislature in the latter part of the session.

SOME OF THE BILLS SUPPORTED BY THE COUNCIL

Bill No.

- 408,A. Providing state-wide farm safety educational program.
Became law.
- 222,A. Providing central standard time instead of central war time. Failed.

- 221, A. Exempting farm machinery from taxation even though used for hire. Failed.
- 414, A. Placing control of rendering plants under State Board of Agriculture. (In final form this feature was eliminated, rendering plant licenses were increased and fur farmers' rights to transport dead animals were clarified.) Became law.
- 429, S. Amended Employment Peace Act: permitting a majority of all in bargaining unit voting favorably by secret ballot to determine closed shop; clarified continuation of closed shop agreement by striking out requirement for holding referendum unless asked for by either party; brought law in harmony with Supreme Court decision by exempting picketing in exercise of constitutional right of free speech. Became law.
- 12, S. Providing grades and supervision over agricultural limestone. Failed.
- 84, A. \$400,000 for post-war construction of dairy building. Failed.
- 179, S. Providing funds for post-war construction of Home Economics wing. Failed.
- 70, S. Permit hauling of gasoline by truck in amounts larger than 2,000 gallons. Became law.
- 357, S. Increasing appropriation for agricultural extension from \$91,000 to \$150,000. Became law.
- 87, A. Reducing fat content of ice cream from 13 to 10 per cent. Became law.
- Jt. Res. 20, A. Asking Congress to authorize furloughs to servicemen to help in harvesting work. Passed.
- 198, A. Exemption from motor vehicle license law of trailers hauling pea vines exclusively. Became Law.
- 208, A. Providing for reciprocal motor vehicle license tax agreements. Failed.
- 635, A. Exempting "dairy spread" from oleo tax law. Became law.
- 202, A. Cooperative law amended. Permits issuance of preferred stock if approved by 3/4 of common and preferred stockholders voting favorably at meeting; clarifies right of Co-op Board of Directors to borrow money and pledge security. Became Law.
- 48, A. Providing state grading of limburger cheese. Failed.
- 211, S. Appropriating \$10,000 for black stem rust control. Failed.
- 73, A. Permitting deductions of medical, dental, nursing, and hospital expenses in figuring state income tax. Became law.

Jt. Res. 47,A. Requesting U. S. Senators and Congressmen to investigate OPA price ceiling regulation on cheese. Passed.

617,A. Exempting transportation of eggs from ton-mile tax. Failed.

415,A. Providing for an annual deduction per pound butterfat, to support program of dairy research, promotion and merchandising. Failed.

SOME OF BILLS OPPOSED BY THE COUNCIL

28,S. Repeal of 60% surtax on net incomes of persons other than corporations. Failed.

205,A. Repeal of oleomargarine tax. Failed.

15,A. Reduction of auto license fees. Failed.

61,A. Budget Recommendation to cut out state aid to Wisconsin Dairymen's Association, Wisconsin Live Stock Breeders' Association, Wisconsin Cooperative Poultry Improvement Association, Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Association, Wisconsin State Horticultural Society, Wisconsin Potato Growers Association, Wisconsin Horse Breeders Association, Department of Agriculture Dairy Promotion Division, Vocational Agricultural Education and the following appropriations to the College of Agriculture for the following specified research projects: Fur Farming, Tobacco, Truck Crops, Canning Crops, Apple Insect, Potato, and Game Management. Council succeeded in reinstating above appropriations/ bill which became law.

229,S. Striking out basic features of Employment Peace Act. Failed.

462,A. Amending bonding law by allowing sworn statement in lieu of security. Became Law.

354,S. 1/10¢ per pound tax on all dry skim milk to be used for market promotion. Failed.

449,A. Permitting sale of imitation foods. Failed.

283,S. (Consumer deception - filled milk forerunner) Eliminating regulation and standards for condensed and evaporated skim milk. Failed.

215,A. Post-war 40 hour week with overtime and double time provisions. Failed.

99,A. Tax on natural and bottled gas. (Council cooperated in securing amendment to exempt bottled gas.) Became law, as amended.

172,S. Original form provided difficult restrictions on burial cooperatives. (Council cooperated in securing favorable amendments) Became law, as amended.

471,A. Preventing all cooperatives from engaging in legislative as well as political activities. Became Law.

GENERAL LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS

The Council spent much time and effort to restore state aids for the so-called quasi-public agencies functioning through the College of Agriculture in close harmony with livestock producers, poultrymen, horticulturists, Wisconsin Experiment Association, etc. This same insistence to reduce agricultural aids affected the State Department of Agriculture and accounted for the Governor's veto of the farm safety measure introduced and sponsored by the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture.

Numerous bills not listed here were opposed or supported by the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture in the interest of agricultural well-being.

ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

Activities in Washington - In September 1942, in cooperation with the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, I spent a week's time in Washington helping the four national farm organizations, known as the Farm Bloc, in their efforts to include farm labor costs in the parity formula used in setting price ceilings on agricultural commodities. In March, 1943, at the request of the Equity Livestock Sales Association and in cooperation with the National Livestock Marketing Association, I lobbied with the Wisconsin delegation in Congress and appeared before officials of the Office of Price Administration in opposition to the setting of price ceilings on livestock.

Subsidies and Roll-backs - In harmony with the avowed policy of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture, our office used all possible influence in opposition to roll-backs and subsidies. By correspondence, long distance telephone, and telegrams, as well as through statements at conferences and through talks before various groups and at several meetings, I exerted all possible effort in opposition to subsidies and roll-backs. I wrote magazine articles and prepared materials in opposition to subsidies, as well as took part in radio discussions, round tables, and talks in opposition to subsidies.

OPA Regulations - In public statements, press articles, and through appearances before legislative committees, I opposed OPA regulations discriminating against Wisconsin cheese and repeatedly urged our Wisconsin Congressional delegation to use its influence to the end that OPA regulations would be more uniform, more elastic to meet changing conditions, and would be administered by people who understood the commodity or industry to which the regulation applied.

ODT Regulations - I attended conferences and assisted whenever possible with the set-up of programs designed to coordinate and conserve truck transportation of agricultural commodities.

Social Security Deductions - I attended several conferences relative to preventing the Department of Internal Revenue from making social security deductions retroactive, even in cases where truckers and cheese makers were operating on a contractual arrangement.

Bureau of Agricultural Economics - At the request of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, I prepared an outline relative to federal policies, laws, and regulations obstructing or hindering the war effort in agriculture.

DEFENSE AND WAR RELATED ACTIVITIES

State Council of Defense and Citizen's Service Corps - As a member of the original State Council of Defense and later in cooperation with the Citizen's Service Corps, I represented agriculture in connection with meeting problems of food and war goods production, civilian morale and manpower availability.

Selective Service and Farm Labor Procurement - I conferred with state selective service headquarters relative to clarifying problems of agricultural labor deferments and advised with cooperatives, dairy plants, and individuals relative to agricultural labor deferment. I served as chairman of the Farm Labor Procurement Advisory Committee set up under the Citizen's Service Corps in conjunction with the Farm Labor Procurement activities provided through agricultural extension.

National War Fund - As a member of the Executive Board and Board of Directors of the State War Fund, I assisted in setting county quotas and in preparing a program of complete state-wide organization for the National War Fund in rural communities.

War Savings Staff - I was appointed to represent the Council of Agriculture on the State War Savings Staff in an advisory capacity with reference to the sale of war bonds in agricultural areas.

Advisory Committee, Vocational Defense Training - Along with representatives of 3 other state-wide farm organizations, I served on the advisory committee for the State Board of Vocational Education, dealing with the training of people for defense activities including vocational agriculture.

Other Activities - During the present year I served as a member of the state nutrition committee. In the summer of 1943, I served on a committee assisting with arrangements for the emergency dairy production conference.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Livestock Freight Rates - In December 1942 I appeared before the Public Service Commission in opposition to cancellation of 10,000 pound minimum car rate and in opposition to elimination of the so called "three-way rule." Early in 1943, in cooperation with Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association and other interested parties, we filed formal protest on cancellation of these rates with the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Fresh Meats to Pacific Coast Threatened Livestock Rates - I took part in conferences called by interior packers for the purpose of getting lower west-bound freight rates on fresh meat. Their original complaint to the Interstate Commerce Commission included a Section 3 allegation involving rates on livestock for slaughter or breeding purposes as well as rates on finished meat to Pacific Coast points.

We worked with the National Livestock Marketing Association and Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association to get this livestock rate feature eliminated from the complaint.

Babcock Centennial Committee - In August, 1943, I served on the arrangements committee in connection with the observance of the 100th birthday of Dr. Stephen M. Babcock.

Co-operative Week - As chairman of the State Co-operative Week Committee, I assisted in arranging radio and other programs for the purpose of stressing the history, the possibilities, and significance of the cooperative movement in Wisconsin.

Continued Opposition to United Mine Workers Invasion - The Council has gathered information from time to time through county agents, dairy fieldmen, and farm organization leaders relative to the activities of John L. Lewis in the drive to organize the dairymen of Wisconsin. At the same time, I have kept in touch with anti-united dairy farmers' activities in New England, New York, Michigan, and the Middle Atlantic states.

Radio - The Council of Agriculture has maintained regular monthly broadcasts over stations WHA-WLBL. In addition to these monthly broadcasts for the Council, I took part in 8 special broadcasts making a total of 20 radio broadcasts by me for the Council during this period.

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL FARM ORGANIZATIONS AND MOVEMENTS

I have attended conferences called by the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, the National Milk Producers Federation, and the United Dairy Committee and have contributed information and material whenever possible.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH NON-AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

During the year I have prepared material for and spoken to various service clubs, The State Chamber of Commerce, The League of Women Voters, and other non-agricultural groups.

OUT OF STATE REPRESENTATION BY COUNCIL OFFICERS

In September, 1942, President William Hutter represented the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture at the Mid-West Agricultural Production Conference in Chicago called by Prairie Farmer.

On March 14 and 15, 1943, Vice-president Charles Dineen represented the Council at the Mid-West Governor's Agricultural Conference in Des Moines, Iowa.

1942 FARMERS' GET-TOGETHER CONFERENCE

Program - The 14th annual Farmers' Get-Together Conference was held in Madison at the Loraine Hotel, November 16 and 17, 1942. The theme of the conference was "AGRICULTURE IN THE WAR." In his opening message, President Hutter pointed out that, while it is up to the Generals and Admirals to run the war, it is up to us as civilians to maintain the home front and that it is up to federal agencies to do everything in their power to promote

rather than to discourage food production. Dean Christensen cited the necessity of having sufficient manpower, equipment, and machinery if farmers were to maintain production. P. O. Wilson, of the National Livestock Marketing Association, cited the hazards of mismanaged federal price policies. Herman Ihde, director of the State Department of Agriculture, told how the State Department is assisting in the war effort. The manpower problem and its relationship to food production was discussed by army officials representing Selective Service Headquarters. John Brandt gave a clear picture of the need for farmers facing their economic battles together. At the banquet Dr. John Earl Baker gave a clear "on the ground" picture of the struggle ahead against Japan.

The Business Session on November 17 - Was well attended by the delegate body. Resolutions adopted pledged all-out production of food, cited the threat to food production because of the fast depleting farm labor supply, cited the need for normal increase in farm commodity prices, urged the inclusion of farm labor costs in the parity formula, stressed the vital need for adequate farm machinery and repair parts, referred to the need of maintaining cheese and butter quality standards, pledged loyalty and support of farm organizations to the war effort.

CONTINUED JOINT MANAGEMENT BETWEEN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE AND AMERICAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN

The agreement reached a year ago has been continued during the period covered by this report. I continued in the position of General Manager of the American Dairy Association of Wisconsin on a 1/3 time basis, devoting 2/3 of my time to the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture. In addition to this joint management, Mrs. Swanton continued in the capacity of office manager of both organizations devoting more of her time, however, to the affairs and records of the American Dairy Association of Wisconsin. The affairs, policies, and accounts of the two organizations have been kept on an entirely separate basis. This report applies only to my activities with the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF MY COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Miles

TRAVEL - Driving my car (Mileage home to office not included)	1520
Riding with others	1245
By train and bus	9060
Total distance traveled . .	11825

CONFERENCES AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS - 77

TALKS AT ANNUAL MEETINGS, FARM INSTITUTES AND OTHER OCCASIONS - 47

HEARINGS, LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY - 54

RADIO BROADCASTS - 20

COUNCIL DIRECTOR'S MEETINGS - 5 - (Nov. 17, Jan. 25, Feb. 3, April 16, and August 16)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY--8

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS - 3 - (March 31, May 12, and July 27)

MISCELLANEOUS - Preparation of reports, writing magazine and newspaper articles, news releases, statistical information, correspondence, and interviews.

NEWS LETTERS - Went out weekly to more than 1450 cooperative and farm organization leaders during the legislative session. Total of 30,000 letters.

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WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE
(Co-operative)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 1943 TO AUGUST 31, 1944

Submitted by
MILO K. SWANTON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

This period in Wisconsin Agriculture is marked by a two-fold interest and responsibility, - maintaining the tempo of war-time food and fibre production while at the same time preparing for the problems of post-war adjustments. This period also marks the beginning of a new epoch in the co-operative field, - the challenge to clarify objectives and unite the inter-co-operative interests of agricultural groups to meet a wide-spread attack against co-operatives. Also significant during this year was the widest diversity of Council activities related to war-time efforts and leading to post-war plans.

STATE LEGISLATION

An adjourned session of the 1943 Wisconsin Legislature held in January, 1944, accomplished as follows:

1. Amended the election and absentee voting laws to enable Wisconsin electors in the armed services to vote in the primary and general elections.
2. Enabled the banking commission to charge building and loan associations for the cost of annual examinations.
3. Increased the sulphur content permissible in gasoline for the war and six months after.
4. Raised high school tuition limit for the duration of the war and one school year after to \$3.50 per week, less state aid per pupil (was \$3.00 per week less state aid per pupil).
5. Providing for one term of the State Supreme Court beginning in August each year. (Formally two terms, January and August)
6. Extended property tax exemption to halls owned by world war II veterans and exempted personal property of such organizations from taxation.
7. Provided appropriation to complete legislative business after adjournment.
8. Amended law relating to property taxes and school aids in Milwaukee.
9. Set January 1, 1945 as date when law providing election of town and village officials for two year terms will become effective.
10. Appropriated \$22,000 to purchase building for Milwaukee State Teacher's College.
11. Created a state post-war improvement and construction fund and appropriated thereto a sum equivalent to 10% of the net normal income tax collections in the 1943 - 44 and 1944 - 45 fiscal years. Allotted from such fund when labor and materials become available as follows:
 - Northern Colony and Training School \$545,000.
 - Southern Colony and Training School \$2,170,000.
 - Mendota State Hospital \$1,600,000.
 - Central State Hospital \$575,000.
 - University Hospital Wing \$460,000.
 - State Sanitorium \$482,000.
 - Winnebago State Hospital \$1,860,000.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

CO-OPERATIVE WEEK - As chairman of the Co-operative Week Committee, I assisted in setting up the co-operative week program which was held March 20 - 25 for the purpose of stressing the significance of the co-operative movement in Wisconsin.

BABCOCK CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE - I was appointed and served on the citizen's committee provided by the 1943 legislature in connection with observance of the 100th birthday and contributions to science by Dr. Stephen M. Babcock.

RADIO - The Council maintained its regular monthly broadcasts over stations WHA - WLBL. Ten of these I gave personally and I took part on ten other special broadcasts. I attended a conference called by officials of the Columbia Broadcasting System relating to improving radio services for farm people.

OPPOSITION TO UNITED MINE WORKERS DAIRY INVASION - During the year the Council maintained contacts with dairy co-operatives and dairy plants in Wisconsin relative to activities of the John L. Lewis group. Contacts were also maintained with anti-United Dairy Farmer activities elsewhere in the United States.

STATE LABOR BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE - I was appointed and served on the Advisory Committee of the Wisconsin Employment Relations Board which was set up as provided by the last legislative session.

POST-WAR PLANNING - I served on the general committee as well as on the Executive Board for the post-war planning activities provided jointly by the Committee on Economic Development and the University of Wisconsin.

AGRICULTURE-EDUCATION CONFERENCE - The Council in co-operation with the Wisconsin Education Association planned the joint state-wide conference between farmers and educators which was held in Madison, January 29. As far as is known, this was the first conference of its kind held in America for the purpose of developing better understanding between agricultural and educational leaders.

MEAT PRODUCTION CONFERENCE - The Council co-operated with the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders' Association in arranging Meat Production day held March 8th at the College of Agriculture.

RURAL ORGANIZATION LEADERS' CONFERENCE - The Council co-operated with the Rural Sociology Department of the College of Agriculture in planning for the Rural Organization Leaders' Conference held July 25 - 26 at Lawsonia.

ALIEN PROPERTY, PATENTS, AND FORMULAS - The Council assisted the Office of Alien Property Custodian in making contacts with interested farm organizations and with the College of Agriculture for the purpose of determining the usability of patents and processes held by enemy countries that might be of value to Wisconsin agriculture.

FARM SAFETY - The Council took an active and leading part in securing a legislative appropriation providing for the establishment of a farm safety education program in Wisconsin. During the past year I was appointed to serve on the Wisconsin Farm Safety Advisory Committee.

DAIRY DEFENSE COMMITTEE - The Council was called upon to organize dairy support in Wisconsin for the activities of the National Dairy Defense Committee established for the purpose of opposing legislation and regulations favorable to dairy substitutes.

SOCIAL SECURITY - During the year the question of extending Social Security to farm people became a live issue. The Council made efforts to get information on both sides of the question and suggested that a detailed study be made by the Council in the future.

ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH WAR PROGRAMS AND FEDERAL POLICIES

O.P.A. Regulations - The Council took part in several conferences concerning regulations issued by the Office of Price Administration. By correspondence and wire the Council attempted to bring about Federal price control policies that would reflect rising costs of production, would encourage production of food products, and give proper recognition to grades and quality. The Council took an active part in opposing severe O.P.A. penalties and urged O.P.A. officials to adopt a policy of cooperation rather than incrimination. The Council suggested providing special temporary emergency legal council within the Division of Markets of the State Department of Agriculture for the purpose of interpreting O.P.A. price orders and informing dairy plants and other producer marketing agencies.

O.D.T. - The Council assisted in calling state-wide conferences and meetings and advised with District Office of Defense Transportation officials relative to the threatened truck transportation crisis in the hauling of milk, dairy products, livestock, and other farm produce.

Man Power Crisis - The food industry faced a crisis when the arbitrary ruling of the Inter-Agency Committee in Washington practically wiped out the selective service principle for men under 26 years of age. It meant taking many key research men and scientists essential to the food industry working in colleges and universities and threatened the closing of hundreds of cheese factories. Thirty-eight per cent of Wisconsin cheese makers were under 26 years of age. On April 22 the Council called an emergency conference to acquaint farmers and the public generally with the situation and selected a committee to take the problem directly to Washington. During April 26, 27, and 28 this committee met in Washington with Leo Crowley who conferred with General Marshall and Paul McNutt; met with the Essential Activities Committee of the War Man power Commission; met with War Food Administration and conferred with officials of four general farm organizations. In Madison the Council conferred with representatives of the College of Agriculture, officials of the Cheese Makers' Association and State Selective Service Headquarters. Stays of inductions were later granted until the August call.

War Finance Advisory Committee - The Council secretary was appointed to serve on the State War Finance Advisory Committee relative to promoting war bond sales among agricultural people.

Wisconsin War Fund - I served during the year on the Board of Directors and on the Special Quota Committee of the Wisconsin War Fund campaign and took part on programs to promote contributions to the various war-related activities of the National War Fund.

Service Men Rehabilitation - Vice-President Charles Dineen, represented the Council at the state legislative conference in Milwaukee relating to the post-war rehabilitation of service men.

National War Food Policies - I took part in the National War Food Conference in Chicago, September 17, 1943. I conferred with AAA relative to food production goals and I met with the Food Distribution Administration relative to food policies and programs.

Federal Oleomargarine Legislation - The Council took an active part in opposing the Fulmer the Mayback and the Smith Oleomargarine bills introduced in Congress. The Council kept in close touch with dairy plants and dairy leaders throughout Wisconsin relative to these measures. I prepared several articles for newspapers and magazines and assisted the National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation in arranging for Wisconsin people to testify at the U.S. Senate hearing against the Smith Oleo Bill.

Opposed Federal Tax On Gasoline - The Council contacted every Wisconsin Congressman and members of the House Ways and Means Committee in opposition to the proposed high federal tax on gasoline and fuel oils used on farms.

COOPERATION WITH STATE AGENCIES AND GROUPS

During this period the Council has worked in harmony with various divisions of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and with the College of Agriculture. The Council has worked closely with the Wisconsin Education Association, and various civic organizations as well as many other economic and welfare groups within the state. Vice-President Charles Dineen represented the Council at the industry-wide banquet of the Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce.

ACTIVITIES WITH OUT-OF-STATE FARM ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES

National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation - As a director of the National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation I attended two Washington conferences pertaining to national programs and price policies affecting the dairy industry and I served as chairman of a special committee to deal with the critical labor shortage in dairy plants.

Inter-State Farmers' Council - I spoke at the annual meeting attended by delegates of farm organizations and co-operatives from the states of Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Delaware held in Baltimore, April 18th.

National Council of Farmers Co-operatives - I served as chairman of the State Council Division of the National Council of Farmer Co-operatives at the National Council's annual meeting in Chicago. Our office has been called upon for information and help in setting up state councils in four new states.

American Institute of Cooperation - In August I was appointed a trustee of the American Institute of Cooperation.

American Farm Bureau Federation - I took part on the annual program of the American Farm Bureau Federation and on the program of the Mid-West Farm Bureau Conference.

National Grange - By correspondence and direct interviews with National Grange officials, the Council has maintained close relationships with the National Grange during the past year.

American Country Life Conference - President William Hutter represented the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture at the annual meeting of the American Country Life Conference held in Chicago, April 11 and 12.

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES FOR COOPERATIVES

Opposed U.S. Senate Bill 1122 - This bill would have restricted tire and tube sales to exclusive dealers only, eliminating several thousand service stations and dealers in the United States including scores of co-operatives in Wisconsin.

State Co-operative Legislation - Opposed bill 471 A. which would prevent all co-operatives from engaging in legislative as well as political activities. It was the Council that succeeded in getting amendments to bill 172 S. for the protection of burial co-operatives. The Council gave all-out support to bill 202 A., which improves Wisconsin's co-operative law by enabling co-operatives by a 3/4 vote of members voting to authorize issue of preferred stock; by permitting distribution of net proceeds on a departmental basis; by giving directors the power to borrow money and pledge security; and by allowing distribution of all or part of net proceeds in capital stock to employees.

Co-operative Week - As chairman of the Co-operative Week Committee I assisted in setting up the program for Co-operative Week held March 20 - 25.

Co-operative Education - The Council has insisted that cooperation should be taught in the schools on a factual informational basis from materials prepared by the College of Agriculture, and the State Department of Public Instruction. This policy has been followed in our contacts with the legislature and the Wisconsin Education Association.

Issued Letter Relating to the Filing of Information Returns - On May 18th, the Council sent a general letter to all co-operative associations in Wisconsin stating that the filing date for information returns had been extended. We pointed out that returns must be filed and warned co-operatives to be sure to get letter of exemption. We warned that co-operatives were under attack by the National Tax Equality Association.

Attack N.T.E.A. - The Council forced Homer E. Marsh, research director for the National Tax Equality Association to divulge his identity. Copies of this correspondence together with four co-operative information bulletins were mailed to all Wisconsin co-operatives on August 14.

State-Wide Co-operative Forum on July 22, 1944 - The Council held a state-wide co-operative forum for the purpose of focusing attention on the N.T.E.A. attack against co-operatives and with the objective of building greater inter-co-operative unity to meet the attack.

Council Opposing Federal Income Tax On Patronage Dividends - The Council has called upon all co-operatives and co-operative leaders to help in counteracting anti-co-operative pressure to place heavy Federal income taxes on patronage dividends. The Council has urged co-operatives to make their position clear to all Wisconsin congressmen and particularly to congressman

Wasielowski, the only Wisconsin member on the House Ways and Means Committee.

1943 FARMERS' GET-TOGETHER CONFERENCE

Program - The 15th annual Farmers' Get-Together Conference was held at the Loraine Hotel in Madison, November 15th and 16th 1943. The theme of the program was "AGRICULTURE'S WAR PROBLEMS AND RESPONSIBILITIES." President Hutter stressed the importance of stronger inter-co-operative relationships. H. A. Benson of the A.D.A. warned against losing home markets for dairy products. A. H. Lauterbach discussed Federal Income Tax Exemptions and H. M. Knipfel discussed the extension of co-operative credit. L. E. Kopitzke explained how O.P.A.'s Plymouth-plus price plan had penalized Wisconsin's cheese industry. Emerson Ela explained how O.P.A. price regulations were affecting Wisconsin's tobacco industry. Dr. E. L. Sevringhaus discussed ways and means of making diets more adequate during the days of food rationing. R. C. Pollock, General Manager, Livestock and Meat Board, showed how meat is a weapon of war and how unwise price restrictions may curtail production. Wheeler McMillen, Editor-in-Chief, Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife, expressed hope for expanding agricultural markets through industrial uses of farm products. At the evening banquet, Radio Man John Homac told how he was bombed at sea. John Brandt pointed to the co-operatives as the best bulwark against monopoly and stressed the importance of farm people uniting for their own welfare.

Business Session, November 16th - Was well attended by the Council delegate body. Resolutions adopted stressed food production as a weapon of war, urged fair prices for farm products rather than subsidies, accepted price control as a necessary war measure but stressed gearing prices to causes and conditions, urged that rationing be adjusted to quantities of goods available, stressed the need for maintaining and supporting farm prices, asked for a unified administration of food problems, urged that taxes be applied on the basis of ability to pay with sufficient money raised to meet human as well as material needs, demanded that oleomargarine be sold on its merits, stressed the importance of farm labor availability, opposed rationing of poultry and eggs, reaffirmed support of co-operative credit and urged the strengthening of marketing co-operatives to combat monopoly.

JOINT MANAGEMENT A.D.A. AND COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE

During this year I continued in the position of General Manager of the American Dairy Association on a 1/3 time basis, devoting 2/3 of my time to the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture. Activities covered in this report pertain to the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture only. Every effort has been made to maintain an accurate separation of activities. Mrs. Swanton continued in her capacity as Office Manager of both organizations devoting a major part of her time to the affairs and records of the American Dairy Association of Wisconsin.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF MY COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

	<u>Miles</u>
Travel - Driving my car (local mileage not included).....	1803
Riding with others.....	2460
By train and bus.....	10340
Total Distance Traveled.....	14603

Talks - 59

Conferences and Meetings - 64

Radio Broadcasts - 20

Directors Meeting - 5

Separate Executive Committee Meetings - 2

Miscellaneous - Includes preparation of reports, articles and news releases; the issuance of news letters; holding conferences and interviews; and taking care of correspondence.

FINAL COMMENTS

The past year has been exceedingly busy. One organization, the Wisconsin Fur Breeders' Association Inc., became affiliated with the Council. The great amount of activity caused by war-time problems and war-related activities plus the division of responsibility between the Council and the A.D.A. left insufficient opportunity to make contacts with non-member agricultural co-operatives.

Interest in state Councils of agriculture is growing throughout the United States. It is now apparent that the Councils of California and Wisconsin are rated the highest from the standpoint of influence among the score of agricultural councils now in existence. We cannot afford to let this high rating slip.

To properly look after the activities of the Council requires the Executive Secretary's entire time. I therefore deem it advisable to discontinue the joint management relationship between the A.D.A. and the Council.

In my opinion, there is a vital public relationship job to be done if the place and objectives of agricultural co-operatives are to be properly understood. Confusion, which is far too prevalent today, must be eliminated. In the days that lie ahead there will be greater need for clarity of thinking and unity of action among the general farm organizations, the farm purchasing and the agricultural marketing co-operatives. In all of this the Council must play a major role.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
(September 1, 1945 to September 1, 1946)

Submitted by

MILO K. SWANTON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

This report of the activities of your Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative, covering the fiscal year September 1, 1945 to September 1, 1946, coincides with the first full year of peace after World War II. The slogan adopted by your Council for the past year was "Co-operation the Way to Agricultural Reconversion." That slogan has been more than a watchword. It has been a guide which has molded and directed the Council's program of activities for the year.

Although agriculture made preparations to meet the test of postwar change, reconversion nationally has been slowed by the indecision of federal programs and by a spirit of acquisition and distrust among economic groups. Artificial controls have stifled production and distribution so badly needed to halt the dangers of inflation.

During this critical period of change from war to peace, there is danger of surrender by our agricultural co-operatives to other forms of business. The threat of the N. T. E. A. from without is exceeded by a threatened decline in co-operative membership morale and loyalty from within. During this critical year your Council of Agriculture Co-operative has worked diligently to strengthen co-operatives from within while also devoting its energies in meeting the attack against co-operatives from without.

In meeting the attack of the N. T. E. A. we have acted on the belief that it is important for co-operatives to get their own houses in order. Likewise, we have proceeded on the theory that it's better to meet non-co-operative groups with a friendly explanation of co-operative facts rather than to wage a campaign of animosities. We believe more good can be gained by conference than by battle. We have made a special effort to interpret to non-co-operative and to non-agricultural groups the problems of farmers and the objectives of farm organizations and farmer co-operatives.

COUNCIL PERSONNEL

Death of Laura M. Swanton. On April 27, 1946, the Council sustained a major loss in the death of a most loyal, capable and understanding servant, Mrs. Laura M. Swanton. In February 1937 she helped establish the Council's full time office for the first time. She worked diligently on behalf of the Council for more than 9 years as assistant to the Executive Secretary. Her background of farm life, her experiences as rural teacher, juvenile court consultant, secretary to the President of the River Falls State Teachers College and to the

Dean of University Extension, coupled with her sound judgment and practical vision provided unusual qualifications for those 9 years of service to the Council. She represented the Council with the Joint Committee on Education. Her knowledge of education and her accurate and frank appraisal of people and programs gave her abilities beyond the routine of an office and the duties of a Secretary.

Publicity Man Employed Part Time. From September 1945 to June 1 946, Robert Hosokawa, a graduate student in journalism, was employed part time to improve press coverage and to help expand agricultural information. The results of his work were most gratifying. He established friendly press and radio relations through his well prepared releases to the daily, weekly and farm papers. His work helped much to improve understanding among non-agricultural people concerning the programs and problems of agriculture. We did not attempt to deluge the press with a mass of material. A clipping service check shows an unusually high response by the press to the news items and releases given to them by the Council.

David A. Hamilton - Assistant Executive Secretary. In August, David A. Hamilton was employed to start October 1, as Assistant Executive Secretary. Mr. Hamilton, born and raised on a Wisconsin farm, attended a rural school, Westfield high school, and graduated in agriculture at the University of Wisconsin. For 4 years he was a teacher of Vocational Agriculture before spending $4\frac{1}{2}$ years in the army where he won 5 combat stars and reached the rank of Major.

JOINT CONFERENCES WITH BUSINESS, LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE

Believing it is far better to meet in friendly man-to-man conference than to stay apart in suspicion and strife, your Executive Committee provided for conferences between the Council's leadership in various areas and representatives of business, industry, labor and the professions. In late winter and early spring of 1946 these Joint Conferences were held in 12 cities. While the success of these meetings varied from place to place, the results in better understanding of the co-operative movement and in a more friendly appreciation of farm problems were beyond expectation.

CO-OPERATIVE CLINICS

In December 1945 because of Council of Agriculture leadership, Wisconsin was the only state in the nation favored with 2 co-operative clinics held under the auspices of the American Institute of Co-operation. These clinics brought America's foremost co-operative authorities including Dr. Raymond W. Miller, Washington, President of the American Institute of Cooperation; Walter L. Bradley, Buffalo, N. Y. Chairman, Committee on Co-operatives, American Institute of Accountants; Kelsey B. Gardner, Washington, Principal Economist, Co-operative Research and Service Division, Farm Credit Administration; and H. M. Knipfel, Secretary, St. Paul Bank for Co-operatives. These co-operative clinics were widely attended by attorneys, co-operative accountants, co-operative managers and members throughout southern, eastern and northeastern Wisconsin. These clinics gave authoritative basic information concerning public relations, membership relations, income tax regulations and legal problems of co-operatives.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF COOPERATION

As a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Institute of Cooperation, I have worked closely with that organization in connection with the Institute's program of co-operative education, co-operative information and co-operative service. Our Council office has served as headquarters for the Institute's State Committee, set up to solicit support for the American Institute of Cooperation. At the invitation of the American Institute of Cooperation, I prepared a section of THE COOPERATIVE YEAR BOOK entitled "War Time Problems of State Co-operative Councils," which has been published by the Institute.

During the last week of August 1946, David Hamilton and I attended the annual meeting of the American Institute of Cooperation at Purdue University where I took part on a program dealing with rural and co-operative education.

OTHER CO-OPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

In addition to newspaper releases, articles for magazines and the contribution to the year book on co-operation, the Council office has given to our member organizations and co-operatives wide distribution of co-operative pamphlets and releases provided by the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and the Institute of Cooperation. Also our Council news letters have carried co-operative information directly to co-operative officers, directors and managers of the several hundred local co-operatives affiliated through their parent organizations in membership with the Council.

In November 1945, I accepted an invitation to take part in the Grange League Federation School of Cooperative Administration at Ithaca. On the same trip I attended the New York Co-operative Clinic at Syracuse. In January 1946, I spoke at the annual meeting of the Michigan Association of Farmer Co-operatives in Lansing.

The Council helped in shaping plans for Wisconsin's 9th Co-operative Week held February 18-23. As chairman of the Co-operative Week Committee I assisted in arrangements designed to set forth the purposes, history and possibilities of co-operation.

Numerous co-operative conferences with individuals and groups were held. During this year I spoke at 31 annual or special meetings of co-operatives.

WORK WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

United States Savings Bond Division. As a member of the Advisory Committee of the Savings Bond Division for Wisconsin, I assisted with the program to encourage financial reserves among farmers and their co-operatives.

Soil Conservation Services. During the year our Council has continued its interest in and support of the soil conservation services.

Production and Marketing Administration. We have responded to

the request of the Production and Marketing Administration to confer with them on the establishment of production goals and in the matter of suggesting land values within areas of the state for the federal tenant purchase program.

Farm Labor. Problems of deferments under Selective Service frequently came to the Council. Also we co-operated in programs to get emergency farm labor such as the use of prisoners of war and the importation of foreign labor to be used in food production and processing.

CO-OPERATION WITH STATE AGENCIES

State Industrial Commission. At the request of the State Industrial Commission to select a representative, I was appointed and I have served as a member of the Advisory Committee on minimum wage regulations, the establishment of a code for flammable materials, and to serve as a member of the Safety Education Committee.

Labor Relations Board. Two members of the Council, F. W. Huntzicker and I, who were previously appointed in accordance with state statutes, served as members of the State Advisory Board on employment relations.

College of Agriculture. We co-operated with the College at farm institutes, on 4H activities and with the Department of Agricultural Economics.

State Department of Agriculture. Our Council has worked closely with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, particularly its Division of Markets and its legal and accounting services.

State Department of Education. I have attended conferences and served as a member of a committee to recommend legislation for improved school attendance by rural youth and transportation aids.

Wisconsin Education Association. Our Council has provided consultants at conferences and speakers at meetings called by the Wisconsin Education Association. These contacts have related to rural and high school curriculae, teacher training and school attendance.

FEDERAL ISSUES AND LEGISLATION

Congressional Small Business Committee. The Council was represented a year ago at the Congressional hearing in Chicago which was conducted by the Congressional Small Business Men's Committee. During the past year we have kept in close contact with this Congressional Committee which was preparing a report on the taxation of co-operatives. Our Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative, like other state councils in membership with the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, was ably represented in Washington by the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives concerning the co-operative taxation issue. This organized teamwork contributed much to bringing about the committee's clear-cut report which refuted the claims of the N. T. E. A.

Bullwinkle Transportation Bill (HR 2536). At the direction of our Board of Directors and Executive Committee in September 1945, the Council, after considering the viewpoints of shippers, municipal traffic bureaus, the State Public Service Commission, the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, the National Livestock Producers' Association and others, urged Wisconsin's congressmen and senators to support the bill with amendments designed to protect the public interest. The bill then would exempt railroads and other common carriers from the Sherman Anti-trust Law to the extent of permitting conferences between carriers of the same class concerning rates, rules and regulations.

Social Security and Hospitalization Bill (S. 1050). On this complicated and controversial measure the Council took the following position with representatives in congress: 1. The multiple proposals should be considered separately, each on its own merit. 2. Recognize the need for federal aid to improve health standards through expanded hospital, medical and dental facilities and services. 3. Supported a survey to determine specific health needs. 4. Encourage prepaid medical, hospital, & dental insurance plans on a voluntary basis. 5. Extend Old Age and Survivors Insurance to farmers and their employees.

Subsidies and OPA. By letter, wire and personal contacts the Council worked for the abolition of consumer subsidies. Without effective rationing except on sugar and due to inability to control black market operations, our Council worked in like manner for de-control of dairy products, livestock and meats.

Case Labor Bill. Our Council maintained its position that unions should be ready to accept legislation providing for financial liability and making labor leaders responsible for their acts, as now applies to co-operatives, partnerships and corporations.

FEDERAL HEARINGS

Federal Power Commission. On March 2, 1946, I testified in Chicago before the Federal Power Commission relative to the use of natural gas as a desirable fuel in dairy plants.

Interstate Commerce Commission. On July 22, I attended the opening of the hearing in Chicago before the Interstate Commerce Commission and on July 31, I presented testimony before the Commission in opposition to the proposed 25% freight rate increase on agricultural products.

WISCONSIN CENTENNIAL

I was appointed as the representative of agriculture on the State Centennial Committee to serve as chairman of the Agricultural Subcommittee. Conferences and meetings of these committees have been held to develop a program for the state-wide observance of the 100th anniversary of Wisconsin's statehood in 1948.

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION

The Council has worked in close harmony with the National Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation on issues involving the welfare of the dairy industry. As a director of the Federation, I have secured much information concerning federal policies affecting the

dairy industry and agriculture generally.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES

The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives is our affiliate organization on the national level. The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives has kept our state office supplied with valuable information through their regular publication "The Washington Situation." I attended the annual meeting of the National Council in Chicago. I served as Secretary of the State Council Division of the National Council and as one of the directors on the national board representing the State Council Division. The National Council has been highly effective in combating anti-co-operative propaganda of the N. T. E. A. The influence of the National Council in Washington in behalf of farmer co-operatives is most significant.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

The American Country Life Association is an agency which is building an improved rural life in America. It has worked with and has received the support of the Council of Agriculture. In June 1946, I attended the annual meeting of the American Country Life Association at Michigan State College.

Veterans on-the-Job Training. I have met with groups of veterans and discussed with them the principles, programs and objectives of agricultural co-operatives and agricultural movements generally.

American Dairy Association of Wisconsin. Our Council has continued to serve as an advisory member of the Board of the American Dairy Association of Wisconsin. During the year we have had continued harmonious relations with the state office of the American Dairy Association with which we have joint ownership of a mimeograph machine and mutual use of the addressograph equipment.

Other Group Contacts. I met in conference and debate with groups of the CIO-UAW in West Allis. I took part in conferences (other than the Council's Joint Conferences) with women's groups, YWCA, Joint Committee on Education, Civic Clubs, business associations and the State Board of Health.

Meetings of Directors and Executive Committee. Since this was not a state legislative year, meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors were less frequent than usual. Policies adopted and action taken by the Board and the Executive Committee during the year are included in this report.

1945 FARMERS' GET-TOGETHER CONFERENCE

The 17th Annual program and meeting of our Council took place in Madison at the Loraine Hotel, November 6 and 7, 1945. "Co-operation - The Way to Agricultural Reconversion" was the central theme. Attendance exceeded meeting facilities. In addition to C. F. Claflin, Milo K. Swanton, Dean Ira L. Baldwin, Milton Button, John Brandt and Dan Hoan, a panel discussion on co-operative facts and principles and a talk by Prof. R. K. Froker on "Conflicting

Interests in Co-operatives" were of keen interest. The annual Farm Family Luncheon and the evening banquet which featured Claude Ebling and Col. La Follette were enjoyable and inspirational. At the annual meeting of Council delegates on November 7, directors were nominated from the various member organizations and elected. All officers and executive committee members were re-elected and a constructive set of resolutions were adopted.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

TALKS AT VARIOUS MEETINGS. I gave a total of 45 talks at annual or special meetings of co-operatives and farm organizations.

RADIO. Thirty-three radio programs were provided by the Council (rebroadcasts and network duplications not included) over Stations WHA and WIBA in Madison, WLBL in Stevens Point, WLS and WGN in Chicago and KSTP in Minneapolis.

CONFERENCES OF VARIOUS TYPES ATTENDED	41
<u>FEDERAL HEARINGS</u> (Federal Power Commission and Interstate Commerce Commission)	2
<u>DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS</u>	6
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED ARTICLES.	6
PAMPHLETS AND REPORTS	7062
SPECIAL LETTERS	6961
NEWS LETTERS.	12165
NEWS RELEASES	4542
<u>TRAVEL</u>	<u>MILES</u>
Driving own car	3980
Riding with others.	2672
Travel by train.	11400
Travel by bus	350
Total Distance Traveled.	18402

THE FUTURE

The Board of Directors has already given instructions to arrange another series of Joint Conferences with business, industrial, labor and professional people as a means of building better understanding for co-operatives and for the problems of agriculture.

Plans are developing to hold another outstanding, state-wide co-operative clinic through the assistance of the American Institute of Cooperation.

The Council will continue its efforts to counteract the N. T. E. A. program on the state and national levels by whatever means may be most effective. At the same time, we pledge our efforts to help strengthen Wisconsin co-operatives from within.

I strongly recommend a state-wide and several regional co-operative marketing and farm supply purchasing conferences for young people to be worked out in conjunction with existing educational agencies.

From reliable sources of information it is apparent that John L. Lewis is about to renew his ambitious program through his United Dairy Farmers District #50, which is designed to annihilate our dairy co-operatives. The Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative must again vigilantly meet that threat to the welfare of dairy farmers.


We will do our best to carry through on whatever basic principles and directions may be laid down for us in the form of resolutions adopted by the Council's delegate body and board of directors.

With the employment of a full-time Assistant Executive Secretary, we plan to make more contacts throughout the state with co-operative managers and directors.

The coming year includes another legislative session. As in the past we will issue our weekly legislative report of hearings to be held and significant action taken by either house. This report will include our analysis of all bills affecting co-operatives and agriculture.

This program for the future will be carried through as you direct and in so far as our finances will permit. We pledge our best efforts to continue our services in behalf of farmer co-operatives and agricultural welfare.

Respectfully submitted



Milo K. Swanton
Executive Secretary

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WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE CO-OPERATIVE

REPORT TO THE 19th ANNUAL FARMERS' GET-TOGETHER CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 1, 1946 - SEPTEMBER 1, 1947

By

Milo K. Swanton, Executive Secretary

RECEIVED

JUL 14 1952

LEGISLATIVE

The past year has been one of intense activity. In addition to the usual services to agriculture generally and to farmer co-operatives of various types, we have worked in conjunction with state and federal agencies and have carried increased legislative activities during the 1947 session. Action occasioned by the anti-co-operative attack of the National Tax Equality Association has been both intensive and extensive.

In line with the basic principles laid down at the last annual meeting, your Council of Agriculture has worked to improve and to strengthen understanding from within co-operatives as well as to improve relations between co-operatives and the public. We have exerted every effort to meet with civic organizations, women's clubs, commercial groups, labor organizations, business and professional associations, to the end that misunderstanding might be greatly reduced or eliminated. We have continued to work on the principle that it is better to get together in conference than to carry on an offensive campaign with those who misunderstand or oppose the self-help, free enterprise system of co-operatives.

We have worked to strengthen our co-operatives from within. The theme of last year's annual conference was "Forward with Co-operation." Getting and keeping the co-operative house in order is, we believe, the best defense and the best offense. We will not yield nor compromise on the full meaning of the agent-principal relationship of co-operatives, - the obligation of co-operatives to return savings and earnings that belong to the members, who pay the taxes.

OUR YEAR'S EMPHASIS ON CO-OPERATION

In practically all of the 55 public addresses and the 32 radio talks given by me during the year, I have stressed the principles, objectives and accomplishments of farmer co-operatives. In my efforts to constructively state the case for co-operatives, I have emphasized how farmer co-operatives enable our family-sized farms to compete in today's modern economy. Co-operatives return savings to patrons, thereby increasing their purchasing power and raising their standard of living.

We have stressed the need for all types of agricultural improvement associations, marketing, service and purchasing co-operatives working together. We need only to be reminded of those inter-co-operative objectives which caused far-sighted farm leaders back in 1926 to develop, and in 1928 to incorporate, our Council of Agriculture, which today is a federation that embraces all types of farmer co-operatives in Wisconsin.

In this field of endeavor we recognize the rights and contributions of other forms of business. While we have advanced the positive qualities of co-operatives, we have attempted at all times to be fair to others.

Our Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative looks upon farmer co-operatives as extensions of individual farm enterprises to a group basis for the purpose of gaining greater efficiency. The objectives of our co-operatives are the economic and social improvement of members and patrons. To this end the co-operative is a tool, a system of doing business rather than an ideological way of life.

We do not condemn fair and legitimate profit motives. Co-operatives are non-profit because the patrons receive the savings. The benefits that accrue belong to patrons on a patronage basis, not to the co-operative.

We believe those would-be friends of co-operatives who condemn the profit motive without qualification, who speak of "production for use" and who talk in terms of a "co-operative commonwealth," provoke unnecessary ill-will and misunderstanding toward the sound principles of co-operation. We believe it is poor public relations when any system or group depends upon disparaging remarks about other types of business enterprise. Our agricultural and other types of co-operatives use, need, and must work in a free economy with all types of business. We have continued during the past year the policy long since adopted by the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative, - that of getting together in friendly explanation and conference rather than staying apart in strife.

During this year our Council of Agriculture has given fullest support to the American Institute of Cooperation, which is a non-profit educational agency supported by farm co-operatives and general farm organizations of the United States to secure and disseminate information concerning co-operatives through all media and methods available. The Wisconsin Committee for the American Institute of Cooperation has functioned through the Council office, making contacts with all co-operatives in the state, in an effort to gain wider support for the valuable activities of the American Institute of Co-operation.

On March 24-25, 1947, our organization with the College of Agriculture, the Department of Agriculture and the Farm Credit Administration, held a state-wide co-operative clinic in Madison. This co-operative clinic brought national leaders such as Dr. Raymond W. Miller, President, American Institute of Cooperation; Judge Hulbert and Kelsey B. Gardner of the Farm Credit Administration, to meet with co-operative accountants, managers, attorneys, directors and members of co-operatives.

We assisted the State Curriculum Workshop and the state-wide committee on co-operatives in developing the manual on "Co-operatives in School and Community - a Teachers Guide."

As chairman of the Wisconsin Co-operative Week Committee, I assisted in plans for the state-wide recognition of co-operatives, February 17-22 inclusive.

Our Council President, C. F. Claflin, and I attended the co-operative Public Relations Conference in Walden Woods, Michigan, made possible by the American Institute of Cooperation.

At four of Wisconsin's District 4-H Leadership Camps, we held Leadership Training Conferences on the principles, objectives and accomplishments of co-operatives.

When the appropriation for co-operative outlines and teaching materials was stricken from the state budget, our organization took the initiative in having Bill 581A introduced. With the help of other farm organizations and co-operatives this appropriation was re-instated.

During the recent legislative session, Bill 440A, ambiguous and designed to hamper co-operatives, was vigorously opposed by our organization. The Council's attorney, Walter Ela, carefully analyzed the legal implications of this bill and his testimony before the legislative committee, along with the vigilant efforts of our Council staff, did much to prevent any progress whatsoever for this bill.

Other legislative activities by our Council of Agriculture in behalf of co-operatives included our opposition to Bill 246A which would have made it difficult for burial co-operatives to function. We worked very actively in support of Bill 540A giving legal recognition for check-offs to co-operatives when co-operatives send a certified list of their members to whatever marketing agency might be handling the farmers products. We also supported Bill 268A giving REA co-operatives the same right of eminent domain as public utilities, when acquiring property for construction of dams. We supported Bill 269A which requires the Public Service Commission to give permission for the construction of dams if the project is approved by a two-thirds vote of the county board in the area. We also supported Bill 602A which gives authority to the Dairyland Power Co-operative to condemn property for the building of a dam on the Flambeau River.

Our Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative worked in close contact with the National Council of Farmer Co-operatives and the National Cooperative Milk Producers Federation in opposition to the activities of Congressman Ploesser's Small Businessman's Committee to cripple co-operatives.

OUR CO-OPERATION WITH STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES

In every way possible we have assisted the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, the Wisconsin College of Agriculture, the State 4-H Club office, and the Rural Division of the State Board of Vocational and Adult Education.

I have served as a member of the advisory Committee to the State Industrial Commission concerning minimum wage rates involving women and children. We have maintained membership on the Joint Committee for Education and on the Wisconsin Council of Safety.

A member of our Executive Committee, Fred W. Huntzicker, and I have served as members of the Advisory Committee to the State Labor Relations Board. During the past year I have served as a non-voting adviser on the Board of Directors of the American Dairy Association

of Wisconsin.

We have assisted the U. S. Savings Bond Division in Wisconsin to encourage financial reserves among farmers and their co-operatives. During the year we have continued our interest in and our support of soil conservation services. We have responded to the request of the Production and Marketing Administration to confer with them relative to land values within areas of the state and concerning the question of tenancy.

WISCONSIN'S STATE CENTENNIAL

As the agricultural representative on the general State Centennial Committee, I have assisted with plans for Wisconsin's Observance in 1948 of 100 years of statehood. The major part of this work still lies ahead. During the past year, as Chairman of the Executive Committee for the State Centennial, I have helped to coordinate the over-all plans involving commerce, industry, transportation and other phases of the Centennial Observance.

RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

In October 1946 our Council office assisted the Catholic Rural Life Conference in connection with its National Convention held in Green Bay.

We have worked with the Department of Rural Sociology in connection with District Workshops held this year in place of the Rural Organization Leaders Conferences held prior to the war.

I worked with the American Country Life Association in connection with its annual meeting held June 17, 1947, at Dubuque, Iowa. As a director of the American Country Life Association, I have assisted with its plans for the coming year.

FARM CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL

On the national level the affiliate or parent organization of our Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative is the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives with which 23 state councils of farmer co-operatives are affiliated. The National Council is a splendid source of factual information concerning federal legislation, the attack upon co-operatives and the welfare of agriculture generally. "The Washington Situation," the official publication of the National Council, is a valuable source of information to us. Our National Council has been very effective in Washington in presenting the cause of farmer co-operatives, in meeting propaganda and attacks against agricultural co-operatives.

During the year we have worked in harmony with the National Live Stock Producers' Association.

Our Council has continued to work closely with the National Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation on all issues involving the welfare of the dairy industry. As a director of the Federation, I

have secured much information relating to federal policies that concern our dairy industry and the social and economic well-being of farm people generally.

1946 FARMERS GET-TOGETHER CONFERENCE

The 18th annual meeting of our organization took place in Madison at the Loraine Hotel, November 6-7, 1946. The theme of that state-wide meeting was "Forward with Co-operation." State and nationally known speakers appeared on the program including John H. Davis, Executive Secretary of the National Council of Farmer Co-operatives, Washington; H. M. Knipfel, Secretary, St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives; B. F. Beach, General Manager, Michigan Producers Dairy Co-operative; and H. H. Hulbert, Livestock and Wool Marketing Specialist, Farm Credit Administration, Washington. A panel discussion brought together representatives of farmers, labor unions and manufacturers. More than 8000 copies of the talk by H. M. Knipfel "Is Your Co-operative House in Order?" have been distributed to co-operative leaders in Wisconsin.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

To determine the legal rights of farmers to collect under Wisconsin's Bonding and Licensing Law for milk delivered to dairy plants in financial difficulty, the Council of Agriculture, through its attorney, Walter Ela, appeared before the State Supreme Court. Mr. Ela appeared in support of the position taken by attorneys for the Pure Milk Association of Chicago. The State Supreme Court reversed the decision of the Circuit Court, thereby making the rights of farmers equal with labor under the State Bonding and Licensing Law.

Following appearance before the Interstate Commerce Commission, your Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative presented testimony before the Wisconsin Public Service Commission in opposition to increasing freight rates on agricultural products and on supplies used by farmers in Wisconsin.

Your Council took part in conferences and exerted much effort to clarify interpretations by the Bureau of Internal Revenue relating to taxing, under the capital gains provision, of income derived from the sale of dairy cattle and other livestock kept on farms for breeding, milking and purposes other than current sales.

A LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Bills initiated by the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative:

300A amending the Dairy Bonding and Licensing Law so as to provide for a Fidelity Bond on the part of trustees handling funds to be paid out to farmers. Became law.

581A providing sufficient appropriation to supply materials used in the teaching of cooperation and conservation. Became law.

Jt. Res. 80A asking for an interim study for the purpose of unifying state and federal dairy and food standards. Passed.

435S granting employers the right to discuss labor relations issues with their employees. Defeated.

302A authorizing the State Department of Agriculture to set up standards for sanitation, practices, advertising, etc., in the practice of bovine artificial insemination. Withdrawn.

Bills actively supported by the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Cooperative:

255A known as the State Aid to Education Bill was designed originally to increase the state's contribution to elementary and high schools from 15% of the total aids received to approximately 50%; This would have made possible more transportation aids, more equalization aid to the less wealthy districts, would have encouraged but would not have compelled consolidation of small rural districts; would have provided special building aids to meet critical building shortages in distressed areas; included a sales tax to provide funds necessary for the state's increased share of education costs thereby relieving property of the increased burden to meet this crisis in education. Truancy and attendance requirements would have been strengthened. Passed without provisions relating to special building aids, without attendance requirements, without tax provision for additional funds, with less transportation aids, without relieving the tax burden on property and with a much modified system of equalization.

1A wiping out the tax restrictions against natural gas. Passed.

375S extending to 6 months the time in which claims for non-highway gas tax refunds can be paid. Passed.

77A granting truck reciprocity. Passed.

92A providing statement to dairy farmers showing pounds of milk delivered, etc. Passed.

200A Cannery licensing guarantee of payments to farmers for cash crops sold. Passed.

198A Budget dealing with agricultural appropriations. Passed with certain restrictions.

102A Providing for state anti-trust division. Passed.

300S granting 2% fat tolerance for Swiss cheese. Passed.

408A authorizing town boards to do work on private roads and drives. Passed over veto.

339A Town Mutual Insurance coverage for property temporarily off the home farm. Passed.

577A restoring appropriations for agricultural statistics on the county level. Passed.

91S providing compulsory arbitration in labor disputes involving public utilities. Passed.

589S providing appropriations for the state grading of Swiss cheese. Passed.

534A requiring center-line marking on blacktop highways. Vetoed.

The following bills were supported by the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative:

117S providing snow removal on private drives. Passed.

105S providing hospital survey for state-federal hospital program. Passed.

211S Tenant permitted to terminate lease if owner refuses to test for Bangs disease. Passed.

460S providing for the Milwaukee Marketing Authority. Passed.

338S setting up a state laboratory of hygiene. Defeated.

211A exempting transportation of poultry and poultry products from the ton mile tax. Vetoed.

350A providing an appropriation to expand state library services, particularly in rural areas. Defeated.

446A providing state-wide pasteurization of milk used in fluid consumption. Defeated.

107A legalizing rural school to pay teachers not to exceed 6¢ per mile for distance traveled to and from school. Passed.

192A providing for state crime detection laboratory. Passed.

464A clarifying and legalizing the use of corn sugar as a sweetening agency. Defeated.

567A to encourage calfhood vaccination by furnishing vaccine and by authorizing the township as an area unit. Passed.

568A making appropriations for the state's frequency modulation radio stations. Passed.

Jt. Res. 72A opposing cuts in the federal appropriations for school lunch and soil conservation programs. Passed.

Bills opposed by the Council of Agriculture:

23S authorizing daylight saving time. Killed.

26A applying property tax to horses not used for work. Killed.

30A eliminating license fees for handlers of oleomargarine. Killed.

103A preventing any milk or cream container except those made from glass. Killed.

322A limiting trucks transporting gasoline to 2000 gallons capacity. Killed.

447A permitting benzoic acid in food. Vetoed.

444A to permit use of calcium chloride in making cheese and to prevent the use of nitrates. Passed.

426A Take "America's Dairyland" off license plates. Killed.

416S to set up a duplicate division of labor arbitration separate from the Wisconsin Labor Board. Vetoed.

COUNCIL PERSONNEL

Claire L. Jackson, veteran of World War II and a graduate of the College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, became affiliated with the Council of Agriculture February 1, 1947. Mr. Jackson is a farm boy from Polk County who knows farm problems first-hand. He has been very active in 4-H Club and other youth activities. Mr. Jackson did a splendid piece of work during the 1947 legislative session. He brings to the Council staff a keen, alert, practical and broad minded viewpoint, anxious to serve Wisconsin agriculture and the co-operatives.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

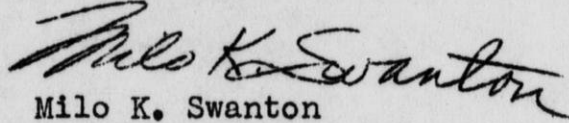
<u>TALKS AT CO-OPERATIVE AND FARM ORGANIZATION MEETINGS IN WISCONSIN</u>	55
<u>TALKS AT ANNUAL MEETINGS OF CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS OUTSIDE WISCONSIN</u>	8
<u>CONFERENCES AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS</u>	63
<u>LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS</u>	44
<u>RADIO BROADCASTS</u>	32
<u>HEARINGS</u>	2
<u>DIRECTORS MEETINGS</u>	4
<u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS</u>	6
<u>LETTERS TO CO-OPERATIVES</u>	6,000
<u>DISTRIBUTION OF CO-OPERATIVE BULLETINS AND OTHER PRINTED MATTER</u>	14,000
<u>LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTERS</u>	48,000

The writing of articles, preparation and sending news releases, issuance of reports, preparation of statements and the handling of correspondence and interviews were part of the general routine at the office of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative.

THE FUTURE

The staff of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative pledges its best efforts to continue its services to the cause of agriculture and all the various types of co-operatives employed by rural people. We will carry out whatever basic policies and plans are laid down for us at this 19th annual convention.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Milo K. Swanton".

Milo K. Swanton
Executive Secretary

MKS:am

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE CO-OPERATIVE

October 31, 1947

I began my work as Assistant Executive Secretary of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative last February - just a month after I had finished my work on my Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics at the University of Wisconsin. I chose to come to work for the Council of Agriculture because I could see in the work of the Council something very worthwhile and because I considered it a great opportunity to be associated with an organization that for 20 years has demonstrated its soundness of judgment and has proved beyond any shadow of doubt its ability to serve Wisconsin farmers and their co-operatives.

I was soon to learn that my real education was just beginning. I could see that this work offered a great challenge and I was thankful that my background as a farm boy and my education and experience along agricultural lines gave me something to draw from.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

The 1947 session of the Wisconsin legislature was just getting under way when I came to work for the Council last February. Mr. Swanton has outlined in brief the Council's legislative activities during this past session. My legislative work consisted largely of appearing before legislative committees, presenting the Council's stand on certain legislation, keeping tab on the status of different bills of interest to co-operatives and agriculture, assisting in getting out our weekly legislative newsletters and helping in the Council office. At the outset, I noticed in the legislature, a very high regard and respect for the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative. I thought you might be interested in what one writer recently had to say about Secretary Swanton's contacts in the legislature.

"Few men who act as legislative counsel have the respect and the affection of the lawmakers with whom they work that is possessed by serious, dignified and learned Milo K. Swanton, executive secretary of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture, and one of the most effective advocates of the Wisconsin farmer this state has had in years. When Swanton appears before a legislative committee, its members are glad to listen. He carries more weight than almost any other regular lobbyist in the capitol, because he is well-informed, honest and confines his lobbying to subjects of direct and real concern to his clients. He can change votes in the legislature without ever buying a drink, which may surprise some readers who may have run across some of the lurid accounts of legislative life and morality."

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

One of the problems that we have been recently working on in the Council has to do with the interpretation of the rules and regulations of the capital gains provisions of the federal income tax laws. It has become increasingly more evident that the present income tax laws just are not made to fit the average farm situation. The result has been one of confusion and lack of uniformity in the application of the federal income tax to farmer incomes.

Under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Act in 1942, gains

on the sales of capital assets are not treated the same as ordinary income and are taxable at a lower rate. Evidently it was the intent of this law that dairy cattle and other livestock which are held for 6 months on the farm and not held "primarily" for sale in the ordinary course of business would be treated as capital assets and the gains on such sales be taxed at the lower rate. However, investigation has revealed that rulings and interpretations in the various states have nullified the intent of the original law and have created confusion and discrepancy in interpretation. We will make a recommendation to Congress that legislation be drafted to include dairy and other livestock sales in a definition of a capital asset so that the sales may be treated the same as other capital assets such as stocks and bonds in other forms of business and so that the gains on the sales of livestock be treated uniformly under the federal income tax laws.

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE CO-OPERATIVE

In closing I would like to read part of a statement I made before the Council's Executive Committee, May 15, 1947: "I am proud of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative. I am certain that there is no organization in the state that has done as much for Wisconsin co-operatives and agriculture in general.

"Since I have been with the Council I have been amazed at the amount of ground covered with the resources the Council has had to work with.

"As you all know the real test for the co-operative type of business will come in the period lying just ahead. When prices begin to slip we will find out just what kind of stuff our co-operatives are made of. If our organizations are sound and united and have sound leadership, they will not only hold their position but gain and lead the way for agriculture. If not, we will either become the serfs of other interests or wards of the government.

"I believe it would pay Wisconsin's organized agriculture to make more of an investment in the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture - an insurance for the future when our organizations will need all the help they can get. Right now today I believe the Council is obligated to spread its services further into the field, to spend more in special research, more in public relations and especially in working to get youth interested and working in co-operative business. The Council must take the lead!"

I want to thank you, the officers, directors and staff of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative for the splendid help and cooperation you have given me in this orientation period I have had during this past year with the Council. I pledge my best efforts for the next year in building up a bigger and better Council of Agriculture in the state of Wisconsin. I welcome the opportunity in getting better acquainted with each one of you and your organization.

Sincerely yours,

C. L. Jackson

C. L. Jackson
Ass't Executive Secretary

CLJ:am