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REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO ACADEMY CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

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This report includes both that of a representative to the Academy Conference and as a representative on the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science which is the governing board of that organization. In the capacity of Archivist of the Academy Conference your representative met with the Executive Committee in Louisville, Kentucky, on March 17, 1953, and again on December 28 during the annual meeting of the AAAS and the Academy Conference at Boston, Massachusetts.

The annual meeting of the Academy Conference lasted all day. Forty-five persons registered and represented thirty of the forty-one academies affiliated with the AAAS. Retiring President A. R. Middleton was chairman of a Committee to Study Cooperation Among Academies of Science and this committee reported that a lack of cooperation exists between neighboring state academies. It was suggested that each academy should inform nearby academy officers of their meetings, send them copies of news letters, exchange publications, and perhaps enter into an exchange of speakers. In addition it was suggested that each academy prepare a list of good speakers from its own membership and send these lists to other academies.

Your representative served on a committee, with Dr. F. E. E. Germann as chairman, on A Study of the Cooperation of Academies of Science with the Academy Conference. This report urged each academy to give their delegate opportunity to present a resume of both proceedings of the AAAS Council and of the Academy Conference to academy members. It is largely through this medium that most members of an academy become acquainted with the functionings of the AAAS. We urge that each academy endeavor to have a large percent of their membership also members of the AAAS. A mutual exchange of membership lists was suggested. The Academy Conference voted to suggest to each academy that the academy delegate be made a member of the academy executive committee or its equivalent.

Commenting on this report, Mr. John A. Behnke, Associate Administrative Secretary of AAAS, announced the preparation of an operational guide for affiliated and associated societies and academies of the AAAS and he urged all academies to have their fiscal year coincide with the calendar year of the AAAS so as to facilitate the election of delegates.

A round-table discussion followed wherein each delegate reported on some significant activity of his academy for the year. Several reported success in holding science fairs; Illinois increased their membership from 900 to 1100 by having a membership committee of twelve, one from each college, to make personal contacts using AAAS membership lists; Minnesota reported success in emphasizing demonstrations rather than papers at annual meetings; South Carolina emphasizes patron memberships at $25.00 and uses this money as prizes for junior and collegiate papers; Texas presented 16 television programs sponsored by manufacturing chemists, and their annual meeting was their largest in history with 1000 in attendance; Virginia has business memberships of $100 with entire proceeds going to the Junior Academy.

Another round-table discussion concerned the opportunities of secretaries to serve their respective academies. Dr. Brooks, Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa, stated that academies rise or decline in ratio to the devotion and effectiveness of their secretaries, whose principal jobs are to keep officers, committees and other functional units on their toes, prompting them and coordinating their efforts. Academies which are interested in promoting legislation must usually rely on their secretaries to coordinate efforts with others that are being made. If an academy is the recipient of public funds its secretary must be alert to protect its prerogatives. A secretary must keep his eye on the membership and see that there is no lag, even though there are usually membership committees. A secretary must not be a dictator, but a combination of follower and leader; he must prepare agenda, furnish factual material, and unostentatiously guide the presiding officer; he must know the academy constitution and by-laws and be an authority on precedents and procedures, and he must look to the execution of the decisions that are made. The clerical work which a secretary is responsible for demands the services of one who believes in his academy and thinks the sacrifice of time worth while.

Useful devices for the administration of academy affairs was exhibited and explained by Dr. E. E. Myers, Myers Clinic, Philippi, West Virginia. These included instructions for section chairmen with a report on the section meeting, an outline of the secretary's duties, and an outline of a proposed handbook of his academy which will describe the duties of the officers, serve as a guide in the planning of annual meetings, explain the functions of committees, include the constitution and by-laws, present the editorial rules for the proceedings, and describe the relations of affiliated organizations.

Secretaries were described by Dr. A. M. Guhl, Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas, as an enzyme system operating within the social metabolism of an academy. The secretary must

influence rather than initiate activities, facilitating them and integrating them as well. As an accelerator, the secretary must prime and sometimes prod officers and committees; he must be quick to sense and respond to situations which require such accelerations. The question of financial compensation of secretaries by academies was raised and brought forth the information that some academies pay remuneration. This may be $100 per year or 10% of all dues. In the majority of academies, however, there is no compensation.

A panel discussion on opportunities of academies to serve the high school teacher was led by Wayne Taylor of Denton, Texas, who is president of the Academy Conference this year. The academies can help the high school teacher personally by arranging for science teacher's clinics, preparing handbooks with valuable science teaching aids, maintaining close relationships between teachers and working scientists, establishing a question-answer section in the academy publications, and arranging tours of area industries or work sessions in industries. The academy can help improve the teaching load and the legal requirements for teaching science. The academies can help the high school teacher and student by sponsoring Junior Academy work, sponsoring Talent Search, Science Fairs and sponsoring conducted tours of industry, science centers and state parks or other nature centers. It was pointed out that state academies could do much to increase public appreciation of the science teacher and thus give his prestige in the community which he does not now enjoy; academies could do much in combatting ignorant prejudices against science that still exist in many communities by better use of public means of communication; academies may, at their annual meetings and at other times, promote more intimate acquaintanceships between talented students and outstanding scientists. Virginia is developing a plan whereby forty talented students will spend a half-day in association with a scientist of recognized standing.

The Opportunities of Academies of Science to Serve the General Public was the last panel discussion. Mr. Thomas King, Director of the Maryland Academy of Science, Baltimore, Maryland, spoke on the necessity of academies adapting their aims and methods to the needs and tempo of changing times. He asserted that the highest aim and greatest service of academies of science is to further the acquirement, the increase, and the diffusion of the knowledge of science, to interpret science and scientific methods to the public, and to present the manifold benefits that derive from science and the union of science and industry, which is its handyman. Academies of science should examine the educational systems and institutions of the community and do their best to supply what these lack. He cited the classes in elementary astronomy for teachers and the classes in the use of engineering instruments for boys as two examples

of the way in which the Maryland Academy attempts to meet current needs; he also pointed out the usefulness of public lectures and moving pictures on scientific subjects and the importance of working exhibits to demonstrate scientific principles and industrial applications. The ultimate purpose of the academy and its justification should be to help young people, especially the younger generation, to live successfully and happily in the scientific and industrial age in which we find ourselves.

Appointed delegates to the Academy Conference enjoyed the usual complimentary dinner furnished by the AAAS at which time this resolution was adopted by the Conference:

"Whereas all of us have profited by the years of devotion to the cause of science and human welfare through research and education within their state academy and elsewhere on a national level,

Be it resolved that the Academy Conference through its secretary express to Dr. Jesse M. Shaver of George Peabody College, who for 25 years served the Tennessee Academy of Science as editor of its Journal, and Dr. Hanor Webb, of the same institution, who for a lifetime served the Tennessee Academy of Science and also many national societies interested in the broad field of science education, our deep thanks and appreciation for their services and our fervent hope that they and their fine work shall continue to inspire scientists and illuminate science in America, for many years to come."

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Tennessee has displaced Texas as the second most productive state in the South in terms of publication of articles abstracted from *Chemical Abstracts* according to a study by John R. Sampey and Jewell C. Sampey, published in the March-April 1955 issue of *Southern Chemical Industry*. Oak Ridge laboratories accounted for 277 of the 453 abstracts of papers credited to Tennessee authors. Carson-Newman and Fisk ranked second and third among the Southern Liberal Arts Colleges in the number of abstracts for the period July, 1950, to January, 1954. Furman University at Greenville, South Carolina, ranked first.

Six fellowships for advanced study in chemistry and chemical engineering for the academic year 1955-56 have been announced by Tennessee Eastman. These grants are part of the Fellowship Program of the Eastman Kodak Company which is offering a total of 34 such awards, valued at over $100,000 for the coming academic year. Receiving the fellowships through T. E. C. are the University of Tennessee, Duke University, Emory University, University of Florida, Georgia Institute of Technology, and the University of North Carolina.

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