

Opening Session

Welcome and Introductions

(Dr. Bechtol:) Good morning, Welcome to the 12th annual convention of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners. Now, I would like to present to you the President of our Association, Dr. John Noordsy, Manhattan, Kansas.

(Dr. Noordsy:) Thank you, Dave. I welcome you to the 12th annual meeting here in San Antonio. We have an excellent program coming up. Have fun, learn, and we will see you throughout the next few days.

(Dr. Bechtol:) It is now my pleasure to introduce three personal friends from the Mexican Buiatrics Association. There are about 45 Mexican veterinarians here in all. First, I would like to introduce Dr. Octavio Compusano, secretary-treasurer, Dr. Jorge Avilia, Past President and the new

president, Dr. Rafael Cab.

Dr. Bechtol: The theme of the program was chosen because we are constantly in a change from individual animal health problems to herd health programs. Our first speaker is Mr. David A. Witts, Dallas, Texas. He is an attorney with business and ranching experience. He as served as legal counsel for various state and federal legislative committees including the Texas Department of Agriculture. He has been a member of the Texas House of Representatives Agriculture Export committee. He has written a book, "The Power of Parity" which is available at the registration desk.

(Dr. Witts:) Even though I am an attorney, I am glad that Dr. Bechtol told you I am a rancher, so I do have some legitimate business activities!

Dr. Witts forwarded the following statement for the proceedings'.

Statement of the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association To The Honorable Bob S. Bergland, Secretary of Agriculture

Presented at Wichita Falls, Texas - December 6, 1979

Introduction. The Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association is the Southwest's oldest and largest cattle association. Its 14,000 members recently celebrated their 100th anniversary. They are honored to visit with you. Rarely can we meet a cabinet officer - particularly one whose integrity and ability command wide respect, both in and out of government.

Harvest Time. Today we are harvesting the largest grain crop in history. Why in a nation of 200 million people has there never been famine? How did we convert a hostile land into a larder that feeds ourselves *and* much of the world? Why do we spend a *Smaller percent* of income on food than any nation? We spend, in constant dollars, *less for food today* than we did 20 years ago — and as you point out, we spend less on food than on our automobile.

American Agriculture. The answer is the Miracle of



Dr. David A. Witts