



The Program

Dr. James Jarrett, D.V.M.
Rome, Georgia

According to the printed program, at this point I am supposed to say a word or two about the program. I guess in my early desire to develop this program, Jerry Litton probably expressed it as well as any when he talked about the part that we play in agriculture and the part that agriculture plays in our national economy. I have always felt very strongly that veterinary medicine should be a key or an integral building block, so to speak, of the management of today's cattle operations. I feel very strongly that management is as strong a part of maintaining healthy animals as is veterinary medicine. We think, of course, in this area first of all of things like mastitis and reproductive health and others. We all know that healthy animals for some reason or other seem to respond better and get sick less, well-managed animals get sick less than those that are not quite so well managed. So our desire in putting this program together was to assemble a program that emphasized

the keying of management and medicine together to improve the profit potential of today's cattle operations, both dairy and beef. I hope that we have accomplished this. I feel very pleased with the program that the section chairmen have put together. Roger Meads and Leon Weaver have done an excellent job in the dairy section and so have Dave Bechtol and Ned Brown with the feedlot section and Herb Lloyd and Mort Silverman in the cow-calf section. I for one am very pleased with it and hope that you will enjoy it as it develops during the week.

Now, we have also had another man with unsung talents among our group. One of our past presidents who went on to bigger and better things, I guess, to become the president of our national parent organization, the American Veterinary Medical Association. Vernon Tharp really needs no introduction to this group. He stood in this position for a year. He put the program together in Columbus, Ohio and did an outstanding job there. In fact, again talking about the Litton film, he's the one that helped bring Litton to that meeting. So without further remarks, the president-elect of the American Association of Veterinary Medicine and past president of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, Dr. Vernon Tharp.



Greetings from the AVMA

Vernon Tharp, D.V.M.
Columbus, Ohio

Thank you, Jim. When I saw that picture of Jerry Litton this morning it made goose pimples go up and down my back, the stimulation of his appearance on the scene in the legislature in Washington and his progress on to his election to the Congress. And then his fiery death in that airplane, the night he was going to accept that election victory. All this is almost beyond imagination. It is hard to think of what he could have done for food production in the world if he had lived to carry out his talents. We often wonder why such a young man as Jerry would be snuffed out instantly under such circumstances. I just thought while I was looking at that picture, the technology it has developed today. I thought likewise a week or so ago when Bing Crosby's Christmas program was presented on nationwide television. To see this man who was fortunate enough to drop dead at 76 years old instead of going through some of the trauma that some people have to go through to die at an elderly age. He was probably lucky. But to see his portrayal, and it almost seemed like a maximum production, like almost he was knowing he was going to be dead before this Christ-

mas. And then to see this picture of Jerry Litton, who appeared on the AABP program in Ohio a few years back, makes a fellow reminisce.

As president-elect of AVMA I owe a lot of gratitude to all of our membership in the American Association of Bovine Practitioners. I found that when I agreed to run for office of the AVMA last year that this was a very hard-working task. It didn't come easily. And if it had not been for the support of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners and their strength across the United States and for the good colleagues we have, not only in our alumni from Ohio State University but colleagues, alumni of all the colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States, I know that I couldn't have been elected.

I am supposed to give greetings from the AVMA and I think there is no better time to give greetings from the AVMA than in this holiday season that is approaching. And so I do welcome the opportunity to wish you greetings from all of AVMA. Dub Anderson was going to come to this meeting too, but he called me last night and said that after being away last week to the AAEP meeting in Vancouver, Canada, that his work had just piled up on him and he was not going to be able to come here. Both Dub and his wife and Grace, my wife, and I went to the Equine Practitioners meeting in Vancouver last week. It was a highly successful meeting. I think they had around 1200 equine practitioners registered. And enough guests to make up around 1800 or so people. It was a very thriving get-together of exchange of knowledge and friendship in Vancouver, Canada. We in Bovine Practitioners have selected Toronto for one of our coming meetings. I think it is good that we have gone

out and planned meetings that did incorporate meetings in Canada. I think it is kind of a shot in the arm for our representatives from the two districts in Canada and to gain membership in Canada.

Equine Practitioners now has 3,000 members. It was mentioned here this morning the growth of Bovine Practitioners from the few we had when we started in Chicago a few years back, 10-11 years back, to now our 2750, I believe Dr. Amstutz said yesterday at the executive board meeting. So we have grown. We are a growing organization and we're becoming a more highly respected organization and more sought after for our opinions from our various committees and our structure in the operation of AABP. The American Association of Swine Practitioners has around 1100 members. Now, the reason I mention this is in thinking of AVMA. The AVMA staff, house of delegates, executive board and officers are all taking heed of the strength of these species-oriented allied associations. It doesn't take too good a memory, even as poor of one as mine, to remember back when we were organizing the Bovine Practitioners, that some people in AVMA wondered if we would ever be able to get 300 members. And it will soon be that we will have 3000. I say this statement concerning taking heed of these species-oriented allied groups, not with any derogatory thoughts concerning AVMA at all. But thinking from the standpoint of AVMA being the mother organization, the congress, so to speak, of the 53 constituent associations which are territorially-oriented, except one which is the National Association of Federal Veterinarians. And all the allied groups now that are represented in the House of Delegates. I believe that AVMA, to lead the membership of 27,000-plus veterinarians in the United States and Canada, must rely on the strength of these constituent state and allied groups. The allied groups in turn must rely on the strength of the total organization if we are to be heard nationally and if we are to get our story across to the agricultural industry, the total public health sphere, and our importance in world health and world food production. A group of bovine practitioners here consisting of 2750 members cannot get this job done alone. We can, though, by contribution to all the councils and positions on committees and membership in the House of Delegates and on the executive board, contribute materially to the progress of veterinary medicine through AVMA and be heard as a unified group. I think that's the route we should take.

I think it's pretty important in thinking about these council seats, for bovine practitioners to seat as many people on those councils of AVMA as we can. I am speaking of the judicial councils, the council on education, the council on research, council on veterinary services, council on biologics and therapeutic agents, and the council on public health and regulatory veterinary medicine. We have been pretty fortunate in AABP in having members on a lot of these councils. This year we have Herb Marsh, a

former president of Bovine Practitioners, on the judicial council. His term is up and he is not eligible for re-election. I think you people in Bovine Practitioners can find a man that is capable of going on the judicial council. And through your efforts back in your home states you can get the job done in putting another member in Herb's place. This is a non-specified professional category so anyone can run, but I suggest you find a bovine practitioner. I know that they have the best judgement and they need to be on the judicial council. The council on education—I almost said has been fortunate, but has been unfortunate, maybe, that I was on it for five years representing clinical veterinary medicine and bovine practitioners—but what I meant to say was very fortunate in having Arnie Hanschel as a member of the council on education. It is important that bovine medicine is represented when we make these trips to the various colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States and in Canada. One of the hardest jobs any of the colleges of veterinary medicine today in the United States have to do is to keep a flow of food animals coming to the veterinary college clinics for educating this mass of veterinary students enrolled today. What is it, something like 7,000 veterinary students, 7,500 or some? It takes a lot of clinical material. The viewpoint of such men as Arnie Hanschel and other people that know bovine practice is pretty essential. I know there's plenty of people connected with the Bovine Practitioners that have a research career as well as some bovine practice that you can dig up. And I think any of you thinking about the job to be done in Washington, in the release of drugs or drug availability for bovine practitioners, realize the importance of having some people on the research council. I know we have people that can serve very well on that council and there are two to be elected. One of them has to be a small animal practitioner and one a member at large. We can fill that slot. And, of course, in the council on public health and regulatory veterinary medicine, we have people within our association that can probably fill one of those slots.

So much for those councils, but the reason I stress these so much is the fact that the people on these councils are the workhorses of the activity in AVMA. It is their deliberations and their recommendations—to the executive board and from there referred on to the House of Delegates and in the House of Delegates to the reference committees for further study—that the work of AVMA is done. So let's show our strength. Let's get out there and put bovine practitioners in all of those positions.

Now, a lot of people wonder what AVMA does to them individually for their dollars spent. AVMA has about a 2.8 million dollar budget a year. It takes a lot of money to run AVMA. I am not going to break this down in percentages. One reason I'm not, I forgot my slides, I left them at home. We have a whole group of slides if any of you wants to take them up to your associations, your locals and see where your dollars in AVMA go. Write the AVMA office and get that

packet of slides. It's a very good breakdown of the expenditures of funds from AVMA. But being up there in the executive board and seeing where the money goes and seeing the activities of AVMA, I'll assure you that you are getting the maximum return on your dollars spent for dues. I will also assure you that you are going to have a pretty rigorous campaign to show you how that dollar is spent because we are going to need some more dues. That is never very palatable, but that is just a situation that exists and if we are going to do the job you want us to do for you, we are going to have to have a little more dues a little later on.

One of the most frequent questions I am asked on these tours to the various association meetings is what are we going to do with all these graduating veterinary students? What are we going to do with these new colleges of veterinary medicine? So far we have been flying by the seat of our pants. We have had no hard data to make any decisions upon. Colleges of veterinary medicine are originating by political pressure in the various states from sons and daughters of the constituents of legislators, and not necessarily by the livestock industry and the public at large who need veterinary service. We do not know how many veterinarians we need in the United States, nor Canada. The AVMA has earmarked \$200,000 in this year's budget and has commissioned the Arthur D. Little Company to make a manpower study. This study is supposed to be completed and ready for publication, or at least reported upon at the next AVMA meeting. Maybe we will have some facts to glean. Some reasons why we need so many veterinarians. In spite of this report it is going to be tough to control the number of students enrolled in veterinary colleges or the number of graduates. I have an idea, when we get down to the wire that the only thing that is going to dictate how many veterinarians there will be in the United States or in Canada will be the economics of the day. We may have overpopulated some. I think it is interesting to note for you people as practitioners and especially the ones that are getting along past 55 or 60 years old, what the population will be of veterinarians by 1985 with just the present numbers we are graduating. We are graduating, as I said a moment ago, about 1700 a year. There are about 600 veterinarians leaving the profession by death or retirement a year. At the present rate, whether we get any new veterinary colleges or not, there will be about 40,000 veterinarians by 1985 in the United States.

Now, thinking back a little bit, about 66% of those veterinarians will have graduated in the 15 years previous to 1985 or from 1970 to 1985. We oldsters, or us coming middle-aged people or leaving middle-aged people, will not be the majority any longer. This new breed will be the majority. Now, I am not degrading this new breed at all. They are some of the smartest people you have ever visited with or have ever taught. Their sex composition is different. There is going to be a lot more women in that group that is going to make up the majority in 1985. Some of the colleges

right now have 50% ladies. So the complexion will have changed by then. Now the only reason I bring this up to you in an organization of bovine practitioners is that, and you might think, "Well, these ladies won't be in bovine practice"—but they will be in bovine practice. A lot of them will be in bovine practice because they are going to work with their smarts not necessarily their muscles and are going to use technicians, and they are going to be able to do jobs that you will never dream that they would do. In fact, they will cover the waterfront, pretty much.

But you fellows in this later group have your money and your life invested in your facilities and in your practice of veterinary medicine. Now, if you want this majority to take over, along with their likes or dislikes, why just forget them and wait until 1980 and 1985 to wake up to the fact that you are not in the majority any longer. What I am pointing to is, we in organized veterinarian medicine need to merge these people into everyone of our committees. We do not want to keep the oldsters in all these committees. We want to get out and get some of these kids that are just out of school, three or four or five or six years. Get them in here, into your committees. Get them into the officer positions in your state organizations and in your local bovine practitioner organizations. And with a little doing you can melt them into some of the thoughts and some of your philosophy of the practice of veterinary medicine. I think it is real important that we do take heed of this situation. The numbers we need I can't tell you and no one else can tell you. I think it is going to be root, hog or die and let the best man win, or best woman win, fifteen years hence.

No one knows how many it will take because we cannot predict the influence of the population explosion in the world today. And we think the pill has cut it down some and everything else in the way of birth control will cut it down some. But we will never get zero population growth, in my opinion. And we are going to have this explosive population increase continuing worldwide.

From the gold rush in 1849 until the stock market crashed in 1929 we doubled the population to 2 billion. From the stock market crash till they inaugurated John Kennedy, 30 years later, we reached 3 billion. And by April 1976, we reached 4 billion world population. Now, with the best birth control procedures that we can possibly think of and make work, it is predicted that by the year 2000 we will have 6 billion mouths to feed on this earth. Well, granted they may not be able to all eat protein of animal origin, it is granted that instead of an actual food requirement of 4 billion even today, we have an actual food requirement of about 20 billion because of the food it takes to feed the pets and the livestock and poultry that are used to produce this food of animal origin.

So I cannot tell you and no one else can tell you and I do not think Arthur D. Little can tell you, but I think it is money well spent in this manpower study, and let's see how it comes out.