

Opening Session

Dr. John Noordsy, Chairman

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Noordsy: This morning we will start it off and the first man who will be talking to you is the president of our Association, Dr. Jim Jarrett. Jim, have you any words of wisdom this morning?

Dr. Jarrett: "From the looks of this crowd this morning, it's pretty easy to tell that this group is more interested in practice tips than they are in listening to their president. We appreciate the welcome we have received to Baltimore and the Baltimore area. Dr. Jack Shanks and his group have done an outstanding job by welcoming us to Baltimore. To give you an idea, I blew in here about last Thursday getting ready to start the quality milk seminar about three o'clock in the morning. Friday morning I had a loud knock on the door. Whop! Whop! Whop! I went to the door and the security officer said (the door was still hooked with a chain), "Is there a woman in there?" I said, "No!" so he opened the door and threw one in!

We're pleased to be in the Baltimore area. I would encourage each of you, and encourage you to encourage your friends to attend the business session tomorrow as you know this is another of your opportunities to take part in your organization. This, accompanied with committee activities, of course. We need everyone there. Decisions are made there which affect the organization and we would encourage you to attend that session.

One of the things that was not in the program is the Diamond Award for the outstanding bovine practitioner of the year. This is a new award and your board voted to make this presentation this year for the first time. So we would encourage you to be there for that.

As you know, our organization is truly international now with the inclusion of two districts from Canada. In St. Louis we had visitors from several countries. At this meeting we are honored to have the president of the Italian Buiatrics Society Association, Dr. Aldo Romanoli. If you would stand, we are very proud to have you. (Applause.) It's an honor to have you with us, sir.

Dr. Noordsy: Well I can't think of a better person to put on the stage right now than the one that we had originally scheduled but were going to switch around. So, without further adieu, Dr. Tharp, would you come up here. I told him we were limiting him to two minutes, and he said he would come up here and gladly talk a half hour, so it's going to be somewhere in between. So, your AVMA president. It's a pleasure

to have you here, a bovine practitioner, Dr. Vernon Tharp. (Applause.)

Greetings from the AVMA

Dr. Tharp: I don't know if you are mixed up or not, but I sure am! I was supposed to be first and yesterday they told me they were going to move me back because they had a comedian from the State Department coming and they wanted to have a welcome for him. Then when I came in this morning, Dr. Amstutz said "you have two minutes" and I said "great" and instead of being like a horse in a starting gate, they have already run my race.

I'd like to remind you that even though I'll sermonize you a little bit, I will not ask you to drink the pink potion. So bear with me. All joking, I'm not trying to make puns on the fact that some idiot had the charm to hypnotize 900 and some people and several thousand followers to let him lead them into a state of euphoria, so to speak, in Guyana and then have such control over them under that hypnotism to let them slay their children and commit suicide themselves. I think it throws a state of fear into a person. I do not take such a pessimistic view when we are thinking of the state of affairs in this country. Because when you add it up, even though that was such a hideous crime, all totaled this is one of the greatest or the greatest country, as far as I'm concerned, to be able to live in and to raise a family and to practice a profession such as veterinary medicine, serving the livestock industry and the public sectors. Therefore, I think we owe a great vote of thanks to the leaders of this country over the years and to the citizenry that could not be hypnotized and led this great country to the overall state that it is in today.

I thought of the pictures that Norman Rockwell had on the *Saturday Evening Post* starting way back in 1916 and clear through to the end of the Post's regular printing. His death, last month brought some of this to bear. Then, of course, this hideous thing in Guyana further emphasized the four freedoms that he portrayed during World War II, trying to stimulate this country into viewing the great country it was and appreciating the great freedoms that President Roosevelt had proclaimed and tried to hype us up to win the war. I am sure if everyone had been rethinking those freedoms through that, you could not be lured by cultists into the situation that I mentioned earlier, and that you all have heard 99 times on the tube and read more about than I have. To get back to the state of affairs of the profession here in the U.S., as far as the AVMA is concerned I would like to