DON't BE LATE FOR THE FUTURE
OSU Agri.Sciences Banquet,Stillwater,3/17/72

Do you have the time? What kind of time?
Time is [redacted] valuable. TIME IS MONEY!
There is a time to plant, a time to reap.
We have pastimes, and we have times past.

We use time and we lose time.
We have timekeepers and we have time wasters.
Some people kill time; others work it to death.
We may be on time, behind time, or overtime.

Tonight let us look toward the future time, because only the future stretches out before us, offering a reason for existence, a promise, hope.

For months now, forecasters have been predicting what will happen in 1972, pointing with confidence, viewing with alarm, seasoning with caution, and sprinkling generously with both optimism and pessimism.

They say that business will have a year of good growth, bolstered by moderate inflation control and overburdened with rising costs and taxes.

Government spending is due to continue at a pace that we can't afford, but the unbalanced budget will be juggled so that we wont notice the deficit so much.

Guaranteed annual incomes are likely to be assured for everybody except those who work for a living.

Politically, we are on the bright side of the future, with rainbows of campaign promises dipping into the pot of gold that always disappears on election day.

Farmers are expected to enjoy good crops and larger incomes if government payments and inflation hold out, and if it rains at the right time, and if----and if----and if.

Just what is the future of agriculutre?

SInce I became an agricultural editor 35 years ago, the population of the United States has almost doubled and the number of farms has been reduced by more than half.

Not a variety of corn, cotton, grain sorghum, peanuts or soybeans is grown substantially in Oklahoma that was grown then. All have been replaced by improved sorts.

Acreages of these crops have shifted significntly

Beef cattle conformations have been much improved as has the rate of gain and quality of meat. Crossbreeding is now being promoted by purebred organizations that recently considered the practice downright sinful and immoral.

The hoe has been made obsolete by chemicals and plants are better fed than ever before.

Poultry and hogs thrive in giant factories. Tractor power has replaced horsepower/manpower.

Even when you see the progress made in agricultu it is hard to believe. And you do not need to be a prophet to anticipate further drastic changes in the [redacted] years ahead.

The future is coming, and it's moving in on us very rapidly, and it is going to be different.

We can't stop where we are today, and be ready for the future. Somebody has said that the man who is resting on his laurels is wearing them in the wrong place.

Oklahoma's future still depends primarily upon the land. Thousands of farm families have moved into cities, but they still depend upon the land for their food, their water, and raw materia needed to keep industry and business operating to make jobs for them.

Changes that have occurred in agriculture have woven a complex fabric involving tradition, economics, sociology, politics and government. Our future prosperity is directly related to our ability to correlate these elements advantageously and to direct our resources toward productive and beneficial goals.

This university and its staff are dedicated to the future. Research is essentially an effort to make possible a better future.

Teaching aims to prepare students to utilize the experiences of the past and the knowledge of the present in facing the future.

Extension takes information from the campus fountainhead to people throughout the state, who may use it to create a more satisfactory future for themselves and others.

Even the OSU football team lives for the future! ----and just wait until next season.

Great are the achievements and contributions you have made in each of these areas of action. Congratulations and thanks!

Unfortunately, there has arisen among us over the entire nation and appparently on most campuses, a materialistic idea that we should live only for today. The long history of mankind denies its validity, but it persists.

There is a demand for instant educatinn,
a desire to acquire knowledge by legislation instead of by study,
a demand for instant culture and social prestige without manners.

These DO IT NOW people seek pleasure without morality, recreation without creation, wealth without work, political power without responsibility, and benefits of civilization without making a contribution to society.

Such mundane, materialistic attitudes not only will fail those who rely upon them, but they also are a deterrent to progress of others. They constitute a very real threat to our future.

Let our goals, our energies, our talents be directed toward better things, that include spiritual and aesthetic values as well as physical comforts and satisfactions.

I must pause here to extend my commendations to DrrKamm and the OSU administration for valiant and successful efforts to keep this university moving toward the future by serving proper purposes of a university, in spite of efforts of a few to disrupt its functions.

In agriculture, as in other aspects of our lives, the present need is to hitch up our imagination and set new higher goals---ideals that will still be worthwhile when the future arrives.

Because of the rapid rate of change, our goals for agricultural progress must be more visionary, covering a longer period of time into the future than ever before.

Our goals must be imaginative enough to meet future needs; not just to serve present demands.

Today's scientist faces the additional problem of determining whether the work he may be contemplating will still be relevant when completed. Will the problem become obsolete before the solution to it is found?

About 18 months ago I had the privilege of attending RESEARCH DAY 1970 here on the OSU campus, when a number of distinguished scientists and business men presented stimulating thoughts concerning Oklahoma's future.

You may recall that the consensus suggested much larger goals be set for Oklahoma research, that considerably stronger financing be provided, and that better understanding among all segments of science, agriculture and business be sought.

[redacted] accelerated action is desirable--even imperative!

In the 1950s, while he was dean of agriculture at Purdue University, our present secretary of agriculture, Earl L.Butz, stated:
"Farms of the future will be operated by managers smart enough to make money in spite of the government's help to try to save them."

What kind of farmers will these be?
They will not be like the old time dirt farmer which one of our readers described thusly:
"A dirt farmer is a man who starts out with nothing, loses money on everything he grows, and comes out even at the end of the year."

That dirt farmer was smart, all right--smart enough to get a job in town with regular paydays.

What kind of farmer and stockman will be on the land, 10 years , or 20 or 30 years from now?

Will our Oklahoma plains be primarily devoted to large factory-type units, or will it all be cut up into [redacted]
part-time farms and [redacted]

A while back a national magazine set out some imaginative theories about farming in the future.

It suggested agricultural plots up to 10 miles long, or laid out in circles 4 miles in diameter.

Huge machines operating on permanent tracks would be programmed electronically to function without a man on them, controlled from a central panel in a tower.

Tracks might be laid atop conduits which would convey fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides, irrigation water, and defoliants. Infrared sensors would determine when each was needed.

Dwarf plants adapted to denser populations would be used, precision planted by machines or by tapes.

Harvested products might move from fields to factories in large plastic capsules that would maintain temperature and humidity.

Crops would be grown on contract specifications for date of delivery, grade, size, quality and quantity.

Waste plant materials would be recycled on the spot to make fortified feed for confinement fed livestock, whose waste in turn would be restored to the land to feed more crops.
Pollution will be controlled

Multiple births of livestock were envisioned, even cows with 1,000 offspring each in a lifetime-----calves that would gain rapidly and weigh 1,000 pounds when 10 months old.

This forecaster imagined plastic domes would cover acres of crops and microbe refineries to raise proteins.

Possibilities also included wheat that would yield 300 bu. per acre, forage crops of 30 tons per acre, and corn plants like small pines, thick as grass, and with numerous small ears (nubbins) on evry stalk.

When you look backward to see where agriculture was just 30 years ago, projecting these dreams into the ~~year 2000~~ 21st century, just ~~30~~ 27 years from now, may not seem so phenomenal.

We probably will have to spend more money and get people to think faster, but I am confident that research scientists will find the way.

NOt only must we step up the pace of our planning for the future, and our rate of discovery of better ways to do things. We also must make more use of what we know now.

I can think of several instances where Oklahoma has delayed in utilizing scientific information, resulting in significant loss of agricultural income and progress. I'll mention just one.

This is the use of cloud seeding knowledge to help alleviate and possibly prevent severe drouths. We have known how to do this for more than a quarter of a century, and have spent many millions of dollars to affirm the potential value.

STill, we are not effectively using our knowledge. One result is that we have recently experienced another disastrous drouth year. In 1971, the OEP expended more than $150 million in emergency drouth funds in Oklahoma and 3 other states, but this did not begin to cover all drouth losses

This occurred in spite of the fact that a continuing year around cloud seedng program could be put into effect for the entire state of Oklahoma at a cost of less than $1 million a year. I believe that some day we will do it.

Then, there will be enough clean water to go around, if we can successfully trigger reluctant clouds to release their moisture.

I do not foresee the time, however, when human nature will reach the point that everybody will want it to rain on the same day. That will remain a problem far into the future.

Oklahoma still has far to go in the area of agricultural marketing. Are industrialists, financiers and business men in other states smarter and shrewder than their Okla.counterparts

They must be, becaus e they seem to make a profit out of processing and marketing our raw agricultural products, while we are still told that it is unprofitable to do so here.

Until we learn how to get in on the profits and jobs that exist in moving our commodities from producers to consumers, using home grown industries for home grown products, Oklahoma is likely to lag behind in farm income and therefo in other aspects of our economic life.

Our future offers just as many opportunities as ever. Some of the challenges may be greater. But achievements are not impossible.

I believe in our future. Almost everything that we do that is worthwhile has implications for the future.

And our future is almost here.
Don't be late for your own future!

Still, [redacted] old-fashioned in some ways, and I intend by no [redacted] means to suggest that we abandon the good things from our past.

I believe in freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of the individual, and in opportunity rather than security.

I believe that if we can maintain these principles upon which our nation was founded, and [redacted] despose of the festering decay of socialism, then assail the problems before us with vigor, imagination and enthusiasm,

that we have the potential of a great future, a future whose fulfillment will be limited only by ourselves!

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