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REPORT OF THE ACADEMY CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE

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I have been representing the Tennessee Academy for several years in two capacities: as a member of the council of the AAAS, which is the governing board of this national organization; and as a member of the Academy Conference, which is quite separate from the council.

Many years ago the AAAS considered the possibility of organizing sectional groups, and this has been done in the Pacific and South-eastern Divisions. The general opinion, however, was that the State Academies could best serve in this capacity, and as a result, the Academy Conference was organized. In 1925, largely through the efforts of our late Dr. McGill, this Conference came into being and was definitely organized at the Nashville meeting of the AAAS in 1927. At first eleven academies were represented and about two hours were spent in conference. Now there are 41 affiliated academies and the conference lasts one entire day and is followed by a banquet furnished by the AAAS.

In 1949 only 15 academies were represented at the conference, 24 in 1950, and 26 last year. A constitution for the Academy Conference was drafted and adopted last year. Membership is now composed of two members from each affiliated Academy, one of which shall be the officially designated representative to the AAAS council; the other shall be an officer of the Academy. These two representatives, however, can appoint alternates when they cannot attend. The officers making up the Executive Committee are: president-elect, president, retiring president, a secretary, and a permanent secretary. I suggest here that this Academy consider seriously changing our constitution to include a president-elect in accordance with the policy of a majority of the state academies.

A questionnaire was sent out last year to all academies asking for suggestions for topics for future conferences. Some of the suggestions received were: how to obtain new members, promotion of science education, a history of the Academy Conference, how can we interest high schools, and how can an honoraria for academy secretaries be determined.

Dr. Percival Robertson, of Illinois, reported on: "Financing Publications of State Academies" and these points were brought out:

1. The State appropriate funds in many cases for publication of natural science research for the public.
2. The National Science Foundation has funds to aid Academies.
3. Increase the dues, with major portion allocated to publication.
4. Establishment of special memberships—life, sustaining, institutional, industrial—at special rates; and then really sell these memberships.
5. Advertisements.
6. Selling reprints at a profit (Dr. Shaver does this).
7. Charge exhibitors for space at annual meetings.
8. Sell extra copies of proceedings to state universities for exchanges.

Another report of interest was on: "Promotion of Junior Academy of Science." Twenty-one of the thirty-five reporting academies had Junior Academy activity. Points of interest brought out were:

1. Simultaneous meeting of junior and senior academies may be unwise since senior members may wish to and perhaps should attend junior meetings.
2. Twenty-one states now have science talent searches.
3. Visiting groups which go out from universities and colleges to high schools should include more scientists than is the custom.
4. The lack of science courses in some high schools should be remedied.
5. Many high school teachers lack time and/or enthusiasm to participate in junior academy work; the facilities for such activity are inadequate in some schools.
6. Small schools in an area may combine efforts.
7. Junior academy efforts should be headed by a high school rather than a college teacher.

8. Some junior academies are self supporting, while others are subsidized wholly or in part by the senior group.

An interesting discussion on fellows of the AAAS brought out the fact that in one instance an Academy elects to fellowship all its members who are deemed worthy. This can be done by us if a Fellow Committee is appointed composed of three Fellows of the AAAS. This committee should then nominate fellows from this Academy to the AAAS. It should be obvious that they must first be members of the AAAS.

A report on: "Promotion of Research in the State by the State Academy" indicated that while an academy is not a research institution they have the purpose among others of promoting research. Academies should be judged by generations of their activities rather than by one paper of one program. Academies are the only organizations that bring together scientists from all fields and this should stimulate the development of work on interarea problems.

A very interesting report was presented by a lawyer on: "Development of Institutional and Industrial Cooperation." A questionnaire was sent to 111 of Pennsylvania's industrial laboratories, from which 27 replies were received. Eleven replies showed practically no interest in the Academy proceedings; 13 had cooperative research agreements with educational institutions; six were willing to consider presenting papers to the Academy. This sampling indicated that industrial laboratories were apathetic towards the Academy. Thus it was recommended that Academies need more effective publicity, should avoid competition with other societies, should have a committee that would explore educational opportunities offered by industrial concerns, should relate the academy program to industrial as well as academic interests, and should establish industrial memberships.

Ways of increasing membership were discussed. It was suggested that Academies should try to enroll all members of the AAAS in their state through use of the Associations lists, and that the Academies should in turn send their membership lists to the AAAS for a reverse process. Inter-racial difficulties of a minor nature were reported from Alabama but Tennessee and Virginia reported that earlier difficulties had now been resolved. Dr. Howard Meyerhoff, Administration Secretary of AAAS presented his remarks on: "What the AAAS Expects of the State Academies." He regarded the academies as extensions of the AAAS. Academies can aid the AAAS by: appointing delegates to the Conference who will be sure to attend and who will carry the results and problems of the Conference back to the academies for discussion, have delegates present and participating in the AAAS council meetings, relaying the deliberations and actions of this council to the academies, making better use of the AAAS grants-in-aid, and increasing these grants by helping to get more members of the AAAS. Another matter of importance was that of urging academy officers to reply to inquiries from AAAS administrative offices. The Association can in turn suggest and provide speakers for annual academy and other meetings. Dr. Meyerhoff

urged academies to send news notes for printing in *SCIENCE*. The AAAS offers honorary memberships to the boy and girl of highest standing in junior academies of each state, yet only three academies have taken advantage of this opportunity. The AAAS is committed to support the Academy Conference and the academies, but needs their guidance to make this support more substantial and effective.

Now for some of the affairs of the AAAS. For many years the headquarters has been a three story brick residence in a residential district of Washington. Plans have been approved for a new building, an eight story office building with rental space rather than a small "temple of Science" for our use alone. There are \$750,000 on hand. An additional like amount is to be raised in a fund-raising campaign.

The meeting this year was in St. Louis; 1953 will be in Boston; 1954 in San Francisco; 1955 in Chicago, and 1956 in New York City. The Association was anxious to have the 1955 meeting in the South but they will not schedule meetings in cities where racial discrimination is a serious issue.

On many sides one hears that the organization of the AIBS (American Institute of Biological Sciences), of which our former Dr. Meyer is Executive Secretary, has resulted in a withdrawal from the AAAS of many strong organizations such as the Ecological Society, Botanical Society, and the like. Let me just state that the AAAS and AIBS are working together closely in a cooperative manner and that the AAAS still has too many affiliated and associated societies and organizations to give adequate time on the program for each. In the future the annual meetings of the AAAS will tend more towards symposia and boundary crossing of sciences, and minimize the reports by individuals of their particular researches.