INSTITUTE AFFAIRS

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE S.A.F. PRESIDENT

Joint S.A.F.-C.I.F. Meeting, October 8-11, 1961, Minneapolis, Minn.

As President of the Society of American Foresters I'm pleased to welcome you to this meeting. Although all are included in this welcome, the members and officers of the SAF direct attention especially to our friends and fellow foresters from Canada. We are delighted to have you join us in Minneapolis.

It is the mutual intention of the Canadian Institute of Forestry and the Society of American Foresters to hold a combined meeting each decade. You will recall that our last joint meeting was held in Montreal in 1952. There we greatly enjoyed Canadian hospitality and we welcome the opportunity to reciprocate on this occasion. In this connection, I ask that throughout this entire meeting each member of the SAF make a special point to extend a warm hand of friendship to our northern neighbors.

In these troubled times of international tensions it is refreshing, and I hope prophetic, that foresters from two countries can assemble in a meeting organized under the theme "Forestry's Common Frontiers." We know, as technicians, that forestry, as with any other profession, can advance most rapidly only when there are common frontiers and common knowledge. Furthermore, as citizens of our own countries and of the world, we know that the interests of our neighbors and ourselves can be served best when no barriers exist in the exchange of knowledge and friendships. It is gratifying to me, therefore, to be able to participate in a meeting between two countries where ideas will be exchanged freely as progress is reported in forest administration, research, education and extension. I'm sure that most members of the audience are also members of the CIF or SAF. However, regardless of membership in either organization, anyone interested in forestry is welcome to attend.

From the standpoint of the SAF, we are pleased that this meeting could be held in Minneapolis. In our common frontier, this is a busy location, indeed. Also, at this location, we have in residence some exceedingly capable foresters who have worked long and hard to provide us with a well-framed meeting. They have made excellent arrangements for us. How effectively we use them depends largely on individual initiative and preference. I urge, therefore, that each one make a special point to grasp the utmost in the technical, professional and social benefits available.

To give this meeting a truly international flavour, I'm pleased to welcome the President of the Society of Foresters of Great Britain. Professor E. C. Mobbs, who is a visiting lecturer at the University of Minnesota, will be with us for the entire meeting. Both the CIF and SAF are delighted to acknowledge his presence.

It is a special pleasure for me at this meeting to be joined on this platform by my old friend, Lowell Besley, President of the Canadian Institute of Forestry. With great personal pride and strong professional respect, I present him to you.

CHAS. A. CONNAUGHTON

RESPONSE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE C.I.F.

On behalf of the members of C.I.F., I am very happy for this opportunity to thank you, President Connaughton, for the warm welcome you and fellow foresters in S.A.F. have extended to us today. I can assure you that the cordial sentiments which you have so graciously expressed are fully reciprocated. This all sounds mighty formal among first cousins who feel so much at home on both sides of the border. Perhaps there is no better evidence of this free interchange than the fact that I have the privilege of performing this pleasant task today.

And yet the easy atmosphere of genuine friendship in which we meet, should not obscure the fact that there are notable differences as well as many similarities in our two countries. In our deliberations under the theme "Forestry's Common Frontiers" we can make the most progress by recognizing these differences as well as these similarities, making them common knowledge as my friend Charlie has said, and mounting a coordinated attack upon the areas of ignorance. With a productive forest area slightly larger than that of the United States, Canada has only a tenth as many people. The land ownership and use patterns are entirely different, since in Canada nine-tenths of the productive forest land is owned by the government (eight-tenths provincial, one-tenth federal) and only 4% of it is in farm woodlots. Furthermore, of all the productive forest, nearly seven-tenths is without plans for immediate utilization. All this poses somewhat of a problem to the forester in Canada who is anxious to institute intensive forestry practices on the land for which he is responsible. This same problem faced the United States forester in the past, but today he has to be more concerned with holding on to the land itself for timber production purposes and with persuading the owners of small tracts to practice better forestry in order to meet demand.

We have that diversity of viewpoint and relative priority which stimulates active discussion, necessitates objective thinking and fosters constructive suggestions. The program committee has provided for full play of these influences by striving for about an equal number of speakers from each of our two organizations despite the fact that in membership the S.A.F. outnumbers the C.I.F. seven to one. We from Canada appreciate this generous treatment.

I should be remiss if I did not also express our thanks to the host S.A.F. section and to the local arrangements committee for the delightful hospitality and most interesting trips which have been provided for both our ladies and ourselves. We from C.I.F. are mighty glad to be here and are greatly looking forward to our next few days with you. Thanks for having us.

LOWELL BESLEY