

# Reflections on the Conference – U.S. View

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Friends and colleagues, our Conference has nearly ended. When we began last Monday morning, it was with great anticipation and expectations for an outstanding meeting. We have not been disappointed! Speaking on behalf of my U.S. colleagues, and particularly as a member of the Governing Board of the American Oil Chemists' Society, I think this meeting has been a great and rewarding experience for us all. We have shared our knowledge and experience and have been challenged with some projections for the future. It now seems timely for us to pause and briefly reflect on these ideas we have shared and to consider what we should do with them.

We have heard about new opportunities for oil-bearing crops and their products. Our industries around the world now supply essential fat and protein calories at a good value to the consumer. And, each year we have seen substantial growth in these areas. We all share an active and vital role in this important segment of world trade. How, then, and where are the new opportunities for the future?

As we have heard, there are many opportunities to do what we are now doing more efficiently and quickly and cleanly and with less expenditure of energy. We must work with our suppliers—the agricultural community—for they can help us to do a better job in many ways. As we have heard or know from sad experience, poor raw materials and contamination with agricultural chemicals must be avoided if we are to produce high quality products. Also, our ideas as to the needs of quality must be conveyed to the agricultural sector and reinforced by economic sanctions they well understand.

We must also work with all the processing and distribution segments of our industries. Again, the goals we have heard outlined lead to the prize of highest quality.

Finally, we must all continue attempts to educate our customers so that all the quality we attempt to build in along the processing and distribution chain is not lost by mishandling by the wholesaler, retailer, or even the customer himself.

Too often, human nature tends to maintain the status quo—not to “rock the boat” or not to “stick our necks out.” But will such positions move us forward towards these goals we have outlined?

I think each of us should return to our homes and jobs, alert our managements to the ideas we have been exposed to here, and attack some of these new-found opportunities head-on. It seems to me that between now and our next meeting—and I hope we can all get together in such a productive fashion in less than 5 years—we should all

attempt to adopt one new idea we have heard here. Perhaps if we do this in processing, or automation, or product development, or raw material utilization, or pollution control, or any of the many other areas we have discussed, we will advance the status of our respective industries many-fold. Such approaches would not be academic exercises, but would be viable, valuable contributions to the vegetable oil complex and to the world in general.

So, there it is! a very brief and over-simplified summary of what I think we should do.

And, I really believe we *can do it!* Human energy and ingenuity continue to advance our civilization at an increasingly rapid pace.

We have seen, this week, how oilseeds were processed in Holland not too many years ago. And, actually, in some parts of our world even less sophisticated methods are still in daily use. We who live and work in the industrial nations should continue, as we have here, to share our knowledge, equipment, and capital with the developing nations so that all of us can live a better life. We, then, could help to leave behind a heritage of peace and well-being to the generations that will follow us.

Each day, our world grows smaller, our resources more limited, our air and water more polluted, and—unless we act now—the future more grim. I believe I speak for all my U.S. colleagues when I say we, as directors, managers, scientists, and engineers, should all be dedicated to a betterment of those factors our industries can control. We must continue our striving to conserve our resources, to better utilize energy, and to protect the air, water, and land that make up the world we live in. This, I think, should be each person's goal—not just for today, but for everyday into our future—together.

In closing, it has been a great honor to be here with all of you this week. You have been a cooperative, attentive audience. And, your participation in the lectures and in the discussions sessions has made this a great and memorable meeting.

A major factor in the success and excellence of this meeting has been the work done by Dr. C.J.M. Meershoek of VERNOF. Dr. Meershoek, please join me at the podium. May I read to all of you: “With Deepest Appreciation to VERNOF C.J.M. Meershoek, Secretary General, Local Hosts for the AOCS Conference on Oilseed and Vegetable Oil Processing Technology, from the American Oil Chemists' Society, March 1976.” This is presented as a token of the appreciation of the American Oil Chemists' Society. Please accept it with our sincere thanks. Would the audience join me in an ovation for the outstanding job done by Dr. Meershoek and his colleagues here in Amsterdam?

As your chairman, I now declare the formal meeting closed. Thank you for your participation.