

What About Our Range Management Technical Assistance Programs?

MANY people have emphasized the importance of our technical assistance programs in maintaining the strength of the free world. If this be true, then it behooves us to carefully consider the recent article by Dr. Harlan in the Journal about our representation in overseas technical assistance programs. Perhaps it is time for us to wake up to the fact that our Society has a responsibility to insure the best possible help for others

in their range management programs.

Our failure to render our best service is reflected in the opinion of Dr. Harlan and others who criticize our actions abroad. I don't want to insinuate that ours is the only profession under attack. No doubt, even Dr. Harlan would agree that some technicians in all fields (geneticists not excluded) have been guilty of not providing the best possible assistance.

In order to make constructive remedial suggestions it is important to investigate the weakness of our agricultural advisory programs. It has been suggested that we have been guilty of harping on overgrazing and reducing numbers of livestock. Another philosophy of pooh-poohing the effectiveness of grazing management has led us into concentrating on glamour problems such as brush control, poisonous plants and reseeding. At the same time we have largely overlooked the importance of integrating use of improved and unimproved pastures, pin-pointing the critical seasons for

using desirable forage plants, and resorting to livestock management rather than cultural methods as our most important tool in economical range improvement. I think all of us have failed in not insisting on more basic research in range and livestock management. The matter of livestock management may be particularly important in getting the job done where machinery is limited but labor for livestock herding is plentiful!

If the recent article in question is a fair measure of how other technicians regard our range improvement programs, we have failed in our mission to inform people as to the aims and objectives of our So-

ciety, particularly in pointing out what professional range management has to offer.

What can we do? In the first place, we can remind ourselves and others that our job is no different from other land managers in that we have to depend upon coordination of research, teaching and extension. Our ability to get the job done will depend upon our performance in all three fields. Let us remember that basic facts on soil-plant-animal relationships are all important in making our range management programs effective. If we adopt this attitude in foreign assignments, some of our difficul-

ties, in spite of the unique socioeconomic influences under which we may be working, should begin to dissolve!

Let us remember, further, that an overseas assignment may be the biggest challenge we will ever have to face. As a representative of the U. S. A., we become an important ambassador of good will in addition to reflecting on the standards of our profession. May it never be said that the range scientists failed to do their bit in preserving the peace of the world.—*Donald W. Hedrick*, Assistant Professor of Range Management, Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon

RANGE SOCIETY OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 1955

The Elections Committee, THOMAS G. WILLIS, Chairman, announce the election of the following officers of the American Society of Range Management for 1955:

President: A. P. ATKINS, rancher, Box 470, Guymon, Oklahoma

Vice-President: JOHN D. FREEMAN, Soil Conservation Service, Box 1589, Prescott, Arizona

Board of Directors, 1955-57

LESLIE R. ALBEE, Soil Conservation Service, Box 1671, Rapid City, South Dakota

DONALD F. HERVEY, School of Forestry and Range Management, Colorado A. and M. College, Fort Collins, Colorado

BUSINESS MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS AND SECTION CHAIRMEN ANNOUNCED

Acting President A. P. ATKINS has announced the following schedule of annual business meetings to be held at the Eighth Annual Meeting of the American Society of Range Management at the Hotel Sainte Claire in San Jose, California:

January 25, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Business meeting of Board of Directors

January 25, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Section Chairmen meeting

January 28, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Business meeting of Board of Directors