1B. THE PART-TIME EXTENSION SPECIALIST IN AGRONOMY

K. L. HATCH

It was my understanding that your chairman desired a discussion of the relative merits of part-time vs. full-time extension specialists in agronomy work and that Director McDowell was to present the case for the full-time worker. While Wisconsin has both full-time and part-time workers in its organization, this discussion will be confined strictly to the part assigned me.

IDEALS IN EXTENSION WORK

The quality of work is governed largely by the ideals of the worker. Who is likely to have the highest ideals? The man who does his own research work and who, fired with the enthusiasm of conquest, carries his own discoveries directly to the field—or the one who must browse around among the achievements of others in order to build up his message?

It is our belief that the worker who does his own research work carries with him the highest ideals and the largest body of accurate knowledge. Again, the part-time extension specialist is, or should be, always up-to-date. He will keep his hearers alive and himself from growing stale by the new things that are continually revealed to him.

STAFF MORALE

The second reason why the work of the part-time specialist is likely to be superior is found in staff morale. Institutional and personal rivalry cannot exist as is likely to be the case in the extension worker who must depend upon others for the material which he uses in his work. Difference of opinion cannot exist—no man will differ with himself—neither will he be jealous of himself. Yet these are often great handicaps to the full-time extension worker.

WHO DOES HIS WORK BEST?

This is the chief debatable point. Granted that the worker has high ability in both research and extension teaching, the part-time specialist, for the reasons already stated, will do his work best. But it is not always easy to find equal research, extension, or teaching ability combined in the same person. Neither is it so easy to find a single worker able to carry on research in several lines of work suc-