A very good friend, who through the years had held positions of great responsibility in the educational field, said to me only a few days ago "I have heard and read a great many speeches and one of the things that impressed me most was how dull and uninteresting most of them were."

Now, of course my good friend made no reference to the speech which he knew I had to make, but I am pretty sure that you are the folks to whom he was trying to be a good friend. Perhaps he saved both you and me from an ordeal. I shall attempt neither the sublime nor the rhetorical.

We are all in easy agreement, I am sure, that the subject which it is my privilege to consider with you tonight is one in which there is widespread interest.

It relates directly to the research of the soil physicist and the soil chemist; to the investigations in soil management and soil fertility; to the results obtained by those who have to do especially with the problems of soil conservation through erosion control; and to the success of the cereal crop researcher and the cereal producing farmer, as well as to the results obtained by the livestock producer, with his summer grazing procedures and winter feeding and management problems. It goes even further, in fact, and must be given high priority in the thinking of the agricultural economist, as influencing to a significant degree not only short time procedures, but as much, the long time national economy.

The fundamental research having to do with the improvement and production of the grasses and legumes and the soil factors relating to their most successful growth, as well as the effect of such crops upon the soil itself, in which many of you and your associates have been engaged, has provided the foundation upon which the active program involving better land use has been built. It is recognized generally that adapted grasses and legumes are the chief tools in soil improvement, conservation, and crop adjustment.

---

1Presidential address presented at the annual meeting of the Society, Omaha, Nebr., November 21, 1946.
2Professor of Farm Crops, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.