NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COMMITTEES MEET IN CHICAGO

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Fifteen men attended the NCR-3 and NC-107 committee meetings at the O'Hare Ramada Inn Wednesday and Thursday, April 21 and 22, 1971. NCR-3 is the old faithful soil survey committee and the NC-107 is a project committee to work on the topic, "Soil Landscape Characteristics Affecting Land Use Planning and Rural Development". R. R. Davis, Administrative Advisor; O. R. Neal from CSRS in Washington, D.C.; and J. E. McClelland from the SCS correlation office in Lincoln, Nebraska contributed much to the two-day sessions. R. H. Rust (Minn.) served as chairman of NCR-3 on Wednesday, and having graduated from that office was promptly elected to the Chairmanship of NC-107 on Thursday. He and L. P. Wilding (O.) reported on the National Cooperative Soil Survey Work Planning Conference held in January, 1971 at Charleston, S.C. At that conference a plaque was presented to C. E. Kellogg in honor of his approaching retirement, citing him (in Latin) as a great teacher. Fourteen committee reports were summarized. The work on the new Soil Survey Manual which M. G. Cline is directing was referred to with considerable enthusiasm.

The NCR-3 committee had some lively discussion about the textural triangle and possible changes in it. Very fine sand might well be included in the silt category. Reports by two Argonne National Laboratory scientists, Drs. Kline and Jordan, indicated that tritium, a radioactive tracer, circulates four times as fast in organisms (10 days) as in soil. A Purdue University scientist, J. Cipra, reported on plans for the growing-season corn blight watch by remote sensing photography (every two weeks in the corn belt) and photo-interpretation.

Reports from committee members about work in their states indicated a variety of needs for soils information.