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Agriculture

Excerpt from minutes of meeting of the Advisory Committee on
Agricultural Activities, May 21, 1951

In the absence of President Barnard, Warren Weaver stated the objective of the meeting was primarily to consider the future of agriculture in the Rockefeller Foundation. He pointed out that agriculture was mentioned by John D. Rockefeller, Sr., in early discussions of policy at the time the Rockefeller Foundation was established. At that time disease was considered the principle enemy of mankind and as a result, medicine and public health were given primary emphasis in the early history of the Foundation. There is evidence that agriculture is coming to occupy a similar strategic position in the world today. It is important that this fact receives thorough consideration and that it be presented clearly and forcefully to the officers of the Foundation. . . Much of the discussion at the morning session centered around Item H on the agenda (Discussion of long-range program in agriculture). After this discussion it was agreed that the Committee would prepare a report of its views and recommendations regarding the future of Agriculture in the Foundation for submission to the President, Mr. Barnard. This report is to be submitted as far in advance of the meeting of the I. H. D. Commission on June 29 as possible.

Gates letter
to JDR Sr.
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The need for a published annual report on agriculture was discussed, but tabled pending the determination of the status of agriculture in the future program of the Foundation.