

VIEWPOINT

Bruce F. Shank, Editor

Page two as Paul Harvey would say. Last month I talked about a predicament with agricultural extension services, the reduction of these services, and a lack of representation for turf and tree interests in a board chosen to advise the President and the Secretary of Agriculture on budget cuts.

This subject is worthy of every inch of space I can give it in this magazine until something is done about it.

To review last month's Viewpoint: extension services are being steadily trimmed each year with further cuts likely under fiscal 1980's budget; a board named the National Agricultural Research and Extension Users Advisory Board has been created to advise the President and Secretary of Agriculture on priorities for extension services to help budget cutting; no one from a turf or tree organization represents our interests in these vital discussions; and we have only until July 10th to make an impact.

To show you who is represented, here is a list of the 21 members of the board:

— **Four members representing producers of agricultural commodities, forest products, and aquacultural products**

Mr. William Henry Anthony, Sr.

Alice Sidney Farms, Arkansas

Mrs. Margaret Bucher Eklund
Montana

Mr. Gilbert L. Oswald

Simpson Timber Company, Washington

Robert Lee Scarborough

Center State Farms, Inc.

South Carolina

— **Four members representing consumer interests**

Ms. Harriet Barlow

Institute of Local Self-Reliance

Washington, D.C.

Ms. Barbara Friedlander

Office of School Food Services

New York

Ms. Shirley Goldinger

Department of Consumer Affairs

County of Los Angeles, California

Ms. Ellen Haas

Consumer Federation of America

Washington, D.C.

— **Two members representing farm suppliers and food and fiber processors**

Mr. J. G. Tvedt

Farmers Union Central Exchange, Minnesota

Raymond T. Floate

Michigan Fruit Cannery, Michigan

— **Two members representing food and marketing interests**

Robert Archer

Illinois Department of Agriculture

Illinois

J. M. Bowers

Jersey Fruit Cooperative Association, Inc.

New Jersey

— **Two members representing environmental interests**

Wayne R. Z. Willey

Environmental Defense Fund

California

— **One member engaged in rural development work**

Vacant at present

Two members engaged in human nutrition work

Ralph S. Abascal (Chairman)

California Rural Legal Assistance

California

Janet B. Schwartz (Vice-Chairman)

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Massachusetts

— **One member representing animal health**

John A. Ragan

Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Tennessee

— **One member engaged in transportation of food and agricultural products to domestic and foreign markets**

Stoney M. Stubbs

Frozen Food Express, Inc.

Texas

— **One member representing labor organizations primarily concerned with the production, processing, distribution, or transportation of food and agricultural products**

Joan M. Schroeder

Retail Clerks International Union

Washington, D.C.

Recognize anyone who can help us? I sure don't.

The mandated purpose of the board is to represent the interests and views of the users of agricultural research and extension in Federal policy and planning processes at the highest level. It was created as a result of the 1977 Farm Bill.

Somehow, forestry and orchard farmers are the only two recognized industries that relate to the Green Industry at all! How did we get overlooked and are we going to let this continue until every extension service to the turf and tree industries is cut from the budget?

The board must submit two reports, one in March and one in October. The March report goes to Congress and the President, The October report goes to the Secretary of Agriculture. The first report is out and without turf and tree input. The second will be the subject of a meeting in July. We can't miss both.

Make your own decision. What have extension personnel done for you? What part do they play in regional organizations? Who better represents and recommends landscape and arborist services than the extension agent? Would you miss their service and would you like to see them out of work?

Think about it, but don't take long. Board input can be made immediately to:

James Meyers, Executive Secretary
National Agricultural Research and

Extension Users Advisory Board
Science and Education Administration
USDA

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Washington, D.C. 20250