MEMO: Re Proposed Reduction in Agricultural Services.

The efforts of the Government to effect economies in governmental services and departments are admittedly essential to the present situation and deserving of the utmost sympathy and support. The curtailment of merely routine or clerical work, or the postponement of projected public works will have no permanent effect upon the future development of the country. On the other hand, the most careful discrimination as affecting vital services is essential, to ensure that the basic framework of our organizations and the machinery necessary for future progress is not irreparably injured. It may be that reorganization is called for, but it must be recognized that readjustment of such intricate and interdependent units must be an exceedingly delicate task and probably could only be safely undertaken after much expert thought and advice, such as could only be given in some cases by a properly qualified independent commission.

It would appear that the sudden and drastic cuts proposed in certain of the public services, and notably in agriculture, are likely seriously to disorganize and unbalance the machinery that has been built up over a period of years in response to definite needs, to terminate established work of proven value, to disrupt the progress of promising investigations now in process of development and to prevent the inception of further needful work. Everyone recognized that never in the present century has agriculture been in such sore distress. The progress made during this century is due, in no small measure, to these very services, which, apparently are now to be seriously curtailed. However sympathetic and earnest a government may be in advancing the interests of agriculture, it is extremely doubtful if any form of assistance can