

with the matter of ensuring the support and participation of rural citizens in the development of projects desired and needed by the people themselves. This is a very real extension problem and critical to the success of the Program in the long run. Your Committee feels that it can take much credit in placing the need for a rural resources development program before the Federal Government and can provide a service by following up on the action phase of the Program. The briefs were, therefore, devoted to a review of the organization and initial development stages of the ARDA program and its joint relationships in alternative land use, rural development and soil and water conservation activities with the provinces. Further briefs concerned the preparations of two provinces, one in Western Canada and the other in the Maritime Provinces, for co-ordinated and joint federal-provincial projects; the experience of a rural settlement organization; and the theoretical considerations pertaining to extension or educational principles and administrative responsibilities or implications with respect to ARDA of a professional extension organization.

It was the intention of your Committee to call witnesses to describe the state and incidence of rural taxation in different parts of the country. This subject was recommended in the last report of the Committee (see proceedings No. 11, June 28, 1961—recommendation No. 5 (b)) as one of six specific problem areas singled out for research and study by the Committee. It was planned that the witnesses would outline the principles of rural taxation and assessments, the systems in use, the problems of inequity, the burden on real property and other problem phases of rural taxation. This would be preliminary to the conduct of basic research by technical persons employed by your Committee. This part of the agenda was not, however, undertaken.

The activities of your Committee in this session were largely confined to the promotion and maintenance of interest in the ARDA program in all its phases and ramifications. No recommendations were made by your Committee at this time. It is the hope of your Committee that the circulation of the proceedings will serve the purpose it had in mind of stimulation and motivation. The following sections present the highlights of the information submitted by the witnesses.

III. A PROGRESS REPORT OF THE EARLY STAGES OF THE ARDA PROGRAM

An oral submission was presented to your Committee by the Director of the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act, who had only been in office slightly over two months. He pointed out that the various kinds of programs and projects possible under the terms of the Act must be carried out jointly between the federal and provincial governments through specific project agreements. The actual physical arrangements of projects may be carried out jointly or the federal government may co-operate only through the provision of financial assistance. There is one area of activity provided in the Act in which joint federal-provincial financial cost-sharing is an exception and not mandatory. The federal government may conduct research strictly on its own as well as on a joint basis with the provinces.

It was explained that exploratory and informal meetings had been held with representatives of the provinces for the purpose of clarifying the objectives and basic aims of the legislation and to develop the policy on a joint co-operative basis in line with needs and desires of each government level. In most cases the provinces have already set up interdepartmental co-ordinating committees concerned with the kinds of projects possible under the legislation. Keen interest on behalf of the provinces was noted and a large number of projects and programs were proposed for consideration and agreement under the Act.