During the past year it has been my pleasure to meet with a number of Agricultural Organizations here in Florida. I did this because I was primarily interested in learning more about their activities. I, of course, have been acquainted with many agricultural groups through my activities, both as a cattleman and as a member of the Florida State Legislature, but I knew that there were also many associated and allied groups with whose activities I was not acquainted and I wanted to make it a point to know all of them better.

So first before we get started, I want to extend my appreciation to your president, and the officers of your group, who have given me this opportunity to talk to you a little bit about our Florida Department of Agriculture.

I am well acquainted with the work of your organization. I have known many of your members for a number of years, I have seen much of the work that you folks have done publicized in various farm bulletins and agricultural publications. And I must commend you for the time and effort that you are putting into the research which will make all Florida agriculture a little bit better than it has been in the past. You and the many other research scientists of the soil like you, are responsible for much of the progress of this thing we call agriculture. Without you, I am sure that we would still be back in the ages when man tilled the soil, by pushing the plow that was pulled by a mule.

Also before I get started, I want to thank Ben Hill Griffin, a warm, personal friend of many years, for his fine and generous introduction. Ben Hill, I appreciate very much your gracious remarks and I hope I will be able to live up to them in the coming years.

I know, of course, you folks are interested in the proposed reorganization of the Department of Agriculture which will take effect January 15, 1961.

You are familiar with the fact, that the 1959 Legislature approved a re-alignment of agriculture services in the state, and provided for a transfer of powers and duties of some agencies and the abolishment of other boards in order to create a more unified and coordinated program of governmental activities related to agriculture.

Major changes in this reorganization call for the transfer of the personnel and programs for the State Plant Board and the State Livestock Board to the Department of Agriculture. For some time now, we have been doing much preliminary work prior to this changeover. Various officials of the three agencies, along with the present Commissioner of Agriculture, Lee Thompson and I have been working together since early June in order to make this changeover as smooth as we possibly can. Matters of mutual concern have been discussed. And steps have been taken to investigate and try to solve the various programs that we know will come up with this reorganization. Recently we have been able to start making preliminary changes and putting these changes down on paper to take effect as scheduled. We feel that this reorganization will mean increased benefits for those in Florida Agriculture and for those who come in contact with such agricultural producers.

Under this reorganization the department shall be organized into nine divisions which will be Administration, Plant Industry, Animal Industry, Dairy Industry, Inspection, Standards, Fruit and Vegetable Inspection, Chemistry and Marketing. Primarily the department will perform all of the regulatory and inspection services related to agriculture. It will cooperate with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in obtaining and disseminating production, market and trade statistics and information. It will enact any necessary rules and regulations needed, it will foster and encourage the standardization, grading, inspection, labeling, handling, storage and marketing of agriculture products and primarily it will do all that it can do to bring relief to the Florida farmers and aid in the marketing and distribution of Florida Agricultural products.
At the present time our employees range from about 600 which is our regular employment roll, to more than 1,000 during the peak of the citrus season when we must hire many part-time citrus inspectors. At the present time we are operating on a budget of 6½ million dollars and our activities are financed primarily by the general inspection fund. After the reorganization we shall have an additional 500 employees and an estimated 3½ million dollars a year to carry on the activities of both the State Livestock Board and the State Plant Board. The money for these groups will come to us from the general appropriations and will be in addition to our general inspection fund.

We know of course, that you folks are probably most concerned with the operations of the State Plant Board and we would like to say this. We shall do everything possible to see that the operations and the activities of the State Plant Board are carried on in a manner that will mean the most that we can get in the way of increased benefits for Florida Agriculture. I think that the State Plant Board has done an outstanding job in many of its programs. It's true there has been some controversy, but when I think of some of the controversies that all of us have at one time or another been engaged in, I think back to the words that the grand old gentleman of Agriculture, Nathan Mayo, once told me, "Son always remember this, only he who does nothing does not get engaged in controversy". It is our plan, however, to look over all the activities of the Plant Board, the Livestock Board and indeed some of the present operations of the Department of Agriculture to make the changes that we see fit that will promote the interest and welfare of the Florida farmer and protect the health of the Florida consumer.

And as part of that promotion and protection will be the activities of the State Agricultural Advisory Council which is an integral part of the reorganizational plan of the department. This council shall be composed of 20 members from various agricultural or trade organizations or interests affected by the activities of the department. To name a few, these include beef, cattle, swine, dairy, poultry, apiary, citrus, vegetable, ornamental horticulture, seed, commercial feed, fertilizer, forestry, retail food stores, food processing, petroleum industry, etc. At present the law provides for 20 members but it is our hope that we will be able to persuade the legislature to add a few other members to this group which will make it more of an all-agricultural advisory council.

This council shall consider and study the entire field of agriculture, shall advise, counsel and consult with the Commissioner and with the division directors, and officers of the department on various rules and regulations. They will offer suggestions and recommendations in regard to changes of such rules and regulations and in general, help the Commissioner of Agriculture and the executive officers of the department to do a better job for all of Florida Agriculture and for the entire state of Florida.

Since the primaries last May, as I mentioned earlier, I have had a number of opportunities to meet with the various agricultural groups and I assured them as I do your group here today, that I will always hold their welfare in mind when it comes time to consider one rule or another, one regulation or another and one project or another. In the future we plan to continue meeting with these agricultural groups in order that we may find out what their problems are and perhaps advise them on how best they can solve such programs. We are well aware of the fact that a progressive Department of Agriculture can come about only with the cooperation of all of the various groups. I am hopeful that we will have just that type of a progressive department.

I am hopeful that we can start a real promotional and educational program within the Department of Agriculture that will do more than just tell the farmers' side of the agricultural story. We hope to have an aggressive program that will help to boost the consumption of agricultural products, particularly those grown or produced here in Florida. We hope to set up a Florida Agricultural Public Relations Council composed of representatives of various groups within the state, with the hope that this council will in every way possible publicize agriculture.

For years and years we have been concerned with research in the production of foodstuffs, but now it is apparent with the surplus of farm commodities currently being produced, and with the production of too much or too many at the same time, resulting
in a great supply at low prices, that now we must be concerned with research into utilization and marketing and merchandizing. I am hopeful that with the cooperation of many farm organizations and the U. S. Department of Agriculture that we can, in the very near future establish a marketing institute that will teach our farmers how best to market their products. It is our plan to try to assist Florida agriculture however we can so that the return to the Florida farmer is comparable to that in other businesses, and we are hopeful that as we meet other problems that we will, with the resources of groups such as yours, develop the answers that mean a thriving period of prosperity for all of us.

Once again I want to say thanks very much to your officers for inviting me to attend this meeting, you can count on my assistance and the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture in the future. We appreciate all that you have done for us, for Florida Agriculture, and for the state of Florida in the past and we are confident that you'll continue your outstanding programs in the future.

Thanks so much for being so attentive and let me assure you now that after January 3 the door to my office will always be open to anyone interested in the betterment of agriculture in this great State. Thank you.

### AGRICULTURE'S TAX DOLLAR

**Howard A. Thullbery**  
Lake Wales

The data in the paper I am about to present was given to a small group over a year ago. It was my thought upon hearing it that every member of the Florida State Horticultural Society should know these facts. I so stated this to the Executive Committee of our Society and was appointed to see that it was done. I tried to get several good speakers to do it but was unsuccessful; therefore I am giving it myself. I do not claim credit for the data or the hours of work that must have gone into the gathering of this information.

The General Appropriations Bill for the biennium of 1959-60 totaled $702,038,708. These funds are considered the normal operating funds of the State. They do not include gas taxes and other funds which the State Road Department uses; neither do they include various inspection fees, excise taxes, etc. However the expenditures under the General Appropriations Bill are normally considered the interest of the Legislature toward operating the State's business.

The breakdown of the $702,038,708, as to the amount of expenditures in the various categories, is as follows:

**Education** (and I am sure none of us will criticize money spent on education) got 65% of the total monies or $456,108,348 (including Public Schools, Junior Colleges and Universities). Of this amount the Public Schools as such got $380,019,932 or 54.2% of the total appropriation made, and the Universities got 10.8% or $76,088,426.

- **Courts and Criminals** got 6.8% of the total appropriation or $47,622,659.
- **Mental and Alcoholic programs** got 7.2% or $50,728,889.
- **Welfare** got 9.2% or $64,252,836.
- **Agriculture including Forestry** got only 3.27% or $22,963,813.
- **Industry and Tourism** got .725% or a total of $4,995,232.
- **Fisheries** (commercial) got .283% or a total of $1,990,791.

A recap of Agriculture and Forestry shows Agriculture alone got only 2.56% or a total of $17,982,302, and Forestry alone got only .71% or $4,981,267. The total of the two makes up the 3.27% or $22,963,813, the amount listed under Agriculture above.

Of all the categories receiving monies from the General Appropriation Bill (meaning the State) there are only four which produce any money, thereby enabling the State to collect taxes to pay the cost of State operations—and enabling the State to maintain the other activities. This comment is based on the fundamental fact that money coming into the State is derived from two general sources—(1) Items
that are grown, manufactured, or otherwise produced in Florida and sold outside, thereby resulting in new money in circulation, and (2) new money brought into the State in the form of new capital.

In these categories we find the following respective monetary values to the State:

1. (a) Agriculture — total monetary value for the year 1958 — $3,243,520,000.
   (b) Forestry — for the year 1957, $453,972,000.

2. Fisheries — for the year 1957, $29,487,000.

   In connection with this item of manufacturing it is interesting to note that a substantial part of the so-called manufacturing or industry exists largely because food, feed, and fiber are grown in Florida.

4. Tourism — for the year 1955 (and no doubt much larger now) $1,008,000,000.

These are the items that make jobs, payrolls, cargoes, and the ability to pay taxes. The biggest of these is Agriculture yet Agriculture received only 2.56% of the total funds appropriated by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Bill to run the business of the State of Florida.

The total of all monies appropriated for all of these income producing categories was only 4.278% of the total monies appropriated by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Bill.

If our State is going to be able to maintain the staggering expenditures for education, welfare, mental and alcoholic programs, courts and criminals, then it appears essential for the State to “plow back” into its productive industries a much larger percentage of the total State dollars appropriated for operational purposes.

Please bear in mind that the small number of dollars appropriated for Agriculture includes the Agricultural Experiment Stations, Agricultural Extension Service, State Plant Board, Florida Livestock Board, Florida Board of Forestry, Agricultural Buildings, and the Everglades Fire Control District — their manpower, both professional and otherwise; their equipment and supplies of all kinds; their traveling expenses, and their operating costs. All of this is included in the 4.278%.

If you do not know the predicament your Agricultural Directors and their Assistants are in, ask them and you will get the sad news. Undoubtedly all of you who are successful business men will agree that your firms could not continue to stay financially healthy under any such inadequate “plow back” into your business.

If agriculture is to maintain its position then obviously it must receive a larger share of the total State appropriation. If our State continues to spend larger and larger sums on nonproductive (speaking in terms of dollars) matters without taking care of our “income producers” then we are on the road to going broke.

To re-emphasize this whole subject, let me repeat two sets of figures only: Welfare, plus Mental and Alcoholic Programs got a total of 16.4% of the dollars appropriated, while all income producing categories (including Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, and Industry and Tourism) received only 4.278%.

A sounder approach to State appropriations for productive industries and new money-making subjects would seem to be — “How much money can they use to the advantage of the State?” and not the apparent present police of “How little can they exist on.”

Let me say however, regardless of this dim outlook, it would have been far worse had it not been for the Florida Agricultural Council and the excellent work done by that organization for Agriculture and Forestry in the last session of the Legislature.

Our own George Wedgworth is President of the Florida Agricultural Council. Other representatives from the Society are J. R. (Rip) Graves, former Chairman of the Citrus Commission; John Henry Logan and Frank L. Holland.

These men are doing all they can for Agriculture. It is incumbent on every member of the Society to back them up 100% and do everything they are called on to do. President Wedgworth will make a report on the work the Council is doing, and I feel sure the Society will give him all the support possible.