

For the most part this list is a call to increased creative action and cooperation by potential exporters, shipping companies and the service agencies. Full contributions by the State and federal service agencies, of course, depend upon a favorable legislative climate especially toward funding needed service activities.

I appreciate greatly the opportunity to appear before this committee and, again, commend to you the full consideration of problems and possible solutions detailed in the testimony of other witnesses for Florida agriculture.

(Exhibit A)

STATEMENT OF FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE COUNCIL, INC.

We are told that Art Calver handled the Yucatan tour beautifully, that the group was received with the greatest hospitality and had a most interesting time over the weekend of January 6th. Commissioner Conner was on hand, and so were a goodly number of FIATC members. Quite a few AgriTours folders were distributed en route and much interest in the event was indicated.

The wrap-up meeting for the 1968 AgriTours was held at the State Fair Conference Room, Tampa, on January 17th, and almost everyone involved was present. Charles Lykes presided. David, Feijoo, Twedell, Hammond, Jeter, Beatty, Stack, Martin and others gave reports on the activities of their committees. Each item was thoroughly discussed to make sure that nothing had been overlooked. The feeling after the meeting was that we had learned a lot from last year's AgriTour and that this year's is better organized as a result. Ed David was asked again to act as coordinator during the event.

A fruitful meeting was held at Gainesville on January 22nd on the subject of future short courses for Latin Americans with associated tours. Dr. Cunha had assembled a group of top University people representing Beef Cattle, Swine, Horses, Dairy, Poultry, and the Center for Tropical Agriculture. Representing FIATC were Ahlstrom, Stack, Gatrell, Lyons, Parajon, and David. This year's Latin American Beef Cattle Conference will be held at Gainesville on May 21st in connection with the 17th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course which will follow it on May 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. As this program has been completely developed, it was decided to make no changes this year. A meeting of the full committee will be held on June 5th at Gainesville to make plans for 1969. The general idea will be to hold the Latin American Beef Cattle Conference in June of 1969, instead of in connection with the regular May Florida Beef Cattle Short Course. All the other Departments, dairy, horses, swine, poultry and Tropical Agriculture, will hold special Latin American short courses at that time too, all in about three days. All this will be under the aegis of the Center for Tropical Agriculture. We'll then have farm tours, run by FIATC, on the way back to Miami, covering areas of the State not included in the winter AgriTours program. University personnel will be at the different farms to answer questions. After the tours, the guests will have time for a Miami holiday, during the lower-rate period there. Of course, none of the above is final or definite. It is the general idea, subject to many changes, but those present seemed to consider it most favorably.

The Dade County Port Authority dedicated its new Animal and Plant Inspection and Quarantine Facilities at Miami International Airport on January 30th. Dr. Parajon was one of the main speakers at the dedication and did a very impressive job. These further should prove of tremendous value in expanding our Florida International agricultural business.

The Florida State Chamber of Commerce has advised its members and "all concerned" that the 7th Annual Florida World Trade Conference will be held in Jacksonville, Hotel Roosevelt, on April 4th and 5th. The theme will be "Bridging the Oceans for Profit." For reservations write "Seventh Florida World Trade Conference," P.O. Box 8046, Jacksonville, Florida. 32211.

Our thanks to all those who have responded so well to our request to mail in current FIATC dues. The response has been most gratifying.