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New Farmers of America

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FOUR PROPOSALS PRESENTED ON REORGANIZING THE
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

PROPOSAL I

- A. What are the advantages of the proposal that is being presented to us over the present set-up of the National Organization of New Farmers of America since the National Organization of New Farmers of America has made successful progress up to this time and seems destined to continue to do so in the future?
- B. A statement coming from Mr. S. B. Simmons will bring the persons present up to date on the history, development and operation of the National Organization of New Farmers of America.
- C. Statement of philosophy
 - 1. The leadership of the National Organization of New Farmers of America should be in the hands of our people because it is believed that if leadership is to be developed within our group and that if this responsibility is to be lived up to, Negroes must not only develop themselves but they must develop these boys who are members of the New Farmers of America to become leaders. It is also believed that any member of the organization should have the opportunity to aspire to and become the leader of his own organization.
- D. Statement of the desirable administrative set-up for the National Organization of New Farmers of America
 - 1. That the National Organization of New Farmers of America be integrated into the Vocational Education Division of the U. S. Office of Education under the following conditions:
 - a. That the Chief of the Agricultural Education Service be the National Executive Adviser
 - b. That a Negro State Teacher Trainer be the Official National Advisor
 - c. That a Negro be added to the staff of the Chief of the Agricultural Education Service whose primary duties shall be as follows:
 - (1) To callaborate with the Federal Agent for Agricultural Education (Special Groups) and to assist him in coordinating, interpreting and integrating the Vocational Agricultural Program as it relates to Negroes.
 - (2) To be an Advisoer of Negro Affairs dealing with the relationships of Negroes and the Vocational Agricultural Program.

- 9
- (3) To develop such subject matter pertinent to problems of Negro teachers of Vocational Agriculture and to make such necessary contacts to enhance the Negro program.
 - (4) To be assigned to the office and duties of the National Executive Secretary of the National Organization of New Farmers of America.

PROPOSAL II

PREAMBLE

Having carefully kept in mind the proposal that was made in 1935 to have Dr. H. O. Sargent or Mr. Linke serve as National Adviser and after having carefully thought through the proposal for reorganizing the National Organization of New Farmers of America thus making it possible to legalize the National Organization in the Vocational Education Division of the U. S. Office of Education, we believe:

1. That the present Constitution and By-Laws be amended so that the Chief of the Agricultural Education Service shall become the National Adviser.
2. That a Negro State Teacher Trainer be elected by the members of the Organization to the office of Deputy National Adviser.
3. That the present office of National Executive Secretary-Treasurer be discontinued and a National Executive Secretary and a National Executive Treasurer be elected from the Negro State Teacher Trainers until such time when a Negro is added to the staff of the Chief of the Agricultural Education Service and then be designated as the National Executive Secretary of the National Organization of New Farmers of America.

PROPOSAL III

The chief essence of the N. F. A. has become a part of the philosophy and thinking of the boys and all those sponsoring the local, State and National Organization which is first to develop leadership training, and second to emphasize placement or progressive farm establishment and third for the integration of this membership into a democratic society.

The virtue of the N. F. A., so far as the teacher is concerned is, first that it is an effective tool which has in its self those self propelling elements which vitalize the teaching of vocational agriculture and second it has embedded in its objectives those values which the teacher of vocational agriculture can always hold up as being worthy goals of the Negro boy in his march towards progress and security.

Since the chief effort the Negro teacher for the last several years has been to emphasize to the boy that his organization was a Negro boys organization owned and operated by the boys, subject to official supervision, advice and control, we feel that we should be very careful in the proposals suggested which are so far reaching in their implications.

We are all agreed that if the N. F. A. has no legal status, it should by all means have its legal status. But we feel that we have not as yet exhausted all efforts to have it become legal, save having white men become officers and members in the Negro boys organization. This we fear might cause serious setbacks not only to the organization itself but turn the hands of the clock of improved race relations back.

In view of the foregoing facts we deem it unwise at this time to propose any plan for adoption that will be considered contrary to the original policies of the national organization. We are therefore submitting the following proposals:

1. That a thorough study be made of the Comptroller General's ruling that was made some eleven years ago. If this ruling cannot be interpreted to allow legal status, that an effort be made to get a new ruling which relates directly to the N. F. A.
2. Require the National N. F. A. to make a plan by which to operate which must have the approval of the Chief of the Agricultural Education Service just as is done in the case where States must submit a plan of work which must be approved by the Vocational Division of the U. S. Office of ~~the~~ Education. It would seem in this case that the N. F. A. work could be considered as a segment of the teacher's ~~pro-~~ gram of vocational agriculture which would give him authority to carry on the N. F. A. work. This would make it unnecessary for Negro teachers and leaders to explain why the N. F. A. is not now an organization owned, operated and managed by the boys as was true when the organization was founded. It would also make it unnecessary to explain why the leadership cannot come directly from members of their own group. It would also do away

with the necessity for white men to command the leading role in the office and membership of the organization.

We are suggesting the same scheme, that is, having each State N. F. A. Association make and submit a Program of Work which must meet the approval of the State Supervisor before its adoption.

PROPOSAL IV

1. That the Constitution and By-Laws be altered to divide the office of National Executive Secretary-Treasurer into two offices, that of National Executive Secretary and that of National Treasurer; for the reason that when a Negro is added to the Staff of the Chief of the Agricultural Education Service that he be assigned to the office of National Executive Secretary.
2. In order to conform to Federal regulations, that all correspondence dealing with the National Organization be approved and sent out from the Washington office.