

EPILOGUE

In retrospect it appears that this symposium has more than fulfilled our expectations. We had three main goals in mind. First and foremost was to gather as many of the chestnut research people as possible together for frank and open discussion as to the potential for revitalizing the American chestnut program. Second, to gather together under one cover, papers which would discuss the historical aspects of the blight to the present and which would cover as much of the current research as possible; and third, to invite European representation to discuss the situation there.

Approximately 200 people attended. Many of them are actively engaged in chestnut research. The papers printed in the *Proceedings* speak for themselves. The three European scientists, Drs. Grente from France, and Turchetti and Mittenpergher from Italy certainly did an excellent job of fulfilling our third goal.

Post conference meetings on Thursday evening and Friday morning gave us the opportunity for informal exchange of ideas. They also provided the opportunity to discuss the possibility of regional cooperative projects. While there was some hesitation in going through the difficulties of developing a formal regional project (which would have had to be interregional in nature), it was agreed that the more informal Regional Research Coordinating Committee arrangement might be an excellent vehicle for future meetings—annual or biennial, at least until there is justification for a regional project. Of interest is the fact that this has been subsequently

approved by the council of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, and Dr. Dale Zinn, Dean of the West Virginia University College of Agriculture and Forestry has been appointed chairman.

The Friday morning discussion led to an informal setting of several major research priorities:

1. Study of insects affecting chestnut.
 2. Hypovirulence.
 - a. Demonstrate transmission artificially.
 - b. Location of local hypovirulent strains.
 - c. Examine evidence for natural spread.
 - d. Artificial distribution of hypovirulent strains.
 3. Breeding.
 - a. Resistance.
 - (1) Interspecific hybridization utilizing pure species and especially the best of the survivors from previous crosses.
 - (2) Development of clone banks of residuals and other large (over 12" dbh) specimens.
 - (3) Hybridization within American chestnut lines.
 - b. Breeding for form.
 4. Vegetative propagation.
 - a. Conventional methods.
 - b. Tissue culture.
 5. Plantation management.
 6. Other possible controls of the fungus.
- Hopefully, the Regional Research Coordinating Committee will become a reality this year and we can convene again to share current information.

