



## INSTITUTE NEWS

### **Wallace Had "Second Thoughts" About His Agricultural Revolution, Says Kirkendall**

Henry A. Wallace promoted "an American revolution" of institutional and technological change which "transformed the ways of farming, the farm population, and the agricultural system" — and also caused him to have second thoughts during the last years of his life, according to Dr. Richard S. Kirkendall, who recently presented the 1997 Henry A. Wallace Annual Lecture. Dr. Kirkendall, the Scott and Dorothy Bullitt Professor of American History at the University of Washington in Seattle, has devoted a considerable part of his research and writing to the life and philosophy of Wallace and the Wallace family.

His speech, entitled "Second Thoughts on the Agricultural Revolution: Henry A. Wallace In His Last Years," quoted Wallace as saying, "I fear we may be headed even in the Corn Belt for Big Agriculture as well as Big Labor and Big Business and Big Government." Although supportive of the family farmers who had adopted the new ways of farming, "Henry worried that the demographic component of the revolution would seriously damage the national character," Dr. Kirkendall said.

Wallace believed that "farm habits" had been "the strength of the U.S.," which led him to ask, "How long can a civilization exist with less than eight percent of the next generation acquainted with the virtues inculcated by farm living?" It was this idea about "the importance of 'farm habits' for the national character that persuaded Henry to press once again for a substantial farm population. As he saw things now, this national need for people on farms meant that small farmers should be held on the land." The solutions that attracted Wallace's attention were part-time farming and industrial decentralization, according to Dr. Kirkendall. Wallace even met with President Lyndon Johnson about the need for a "program of decentralization of industry so that most of the smaller and more ineffi-

cient farmers may be in commuting distance of a job in town."

"Henry A. Wallace's idea of an alternative agriculture emphasized the expansion of part-time farming, not technological change," said Dr. Kirkendall. "His alternative could serve his enthusiasm for the psychological benefits of living on farms without threatening the modern farming in which he also believed. The nation, he maintained, needed both the new ways of using the land and a large population living and working on it. The modernization of farming had sharply reduced the percentage of Americans who experienced farm life, but Henry proposed a way of turning the movement of the farm population around that would not overturn the modern farming system and its practices."

### **Wallace Institute Elects Officers, Installs Four New Members**

The Wallace Institute Board of Directors has elected new officers for the coming year and installed four new members. The new President is **Dr. Frederick Kirschenmann**, farmer and manager, Kirschenmann Family Farms, Windsor, N.D.; Vice President is **Dr. Cornelia Butler Flora**, Professor of Sociology and Director, North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, Iowa State University; Secretary is **Dr. Frederick Magdoff**, Professor, Department of Plant and Soil Science, University of Vermont; and Treasurer is **Jose Montenegro**, Director, Rural Development Center, Salinas, CA. The new members of the board are **Desmond A. Jolly**, Agricultural and Consumer Economist, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of California, Davis; **Deborah A. Neher**, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, University of Toledo; **Robert I. Papendick**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Washington State University; and **Frederick V. Payton**, Assistant Professor, Institute of Community and Area Development, University of Georgia.

### **Research Improvements Needed to Ensure Sustainable Ag, Ervin Testifies**

Improvements in the public agricultural research and education system are necessary to ensure agriculture's long-term competitiveness, enhance its environmental performance, and improve rural community well-being, according to testimony given recently before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry by Dave Ervin, Director of the Wallace Institute's Policy Studies Program. He recommended dedicating specific funding to build an improved public agricultural research accountability system led by USDA with full stakeholder participation; targeting increased research funding for environmental and other public goods; and establishing a national commission on extension to assess innovative reforms across the country that can help safeguard the sustainability of agriculture. "Public research and education should lead the development and adoption of sustainable agriculture," he testified.

### **Wallace Family, Several Institute Leaders Featured in New Book**

The Wallace family and several leaders of the Wallace Institute are featured in *Iowans Who Made a Difference: 150 Years of Agricultural Progress*, a 367-page book written by Don Muhm and Virginia Wadsley and published by the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. "Iowa's Premier Agricultural Family: The Wallaces" is an entire chapter devoted to the Wallace family, beginning with "Uncle Henry" Wallace, grandfather of Henry A. Wallace. Several pages describe the accomplishments of Henry A. Wallace—Secretary of Agriculture, Vice President, and the man for whom the Wallace Institute is named. "The emergency policies he established in the Agricultural Adjustment Act, passed shortly after he took office, have served as the foundation for government agriculture programs for over 60 years." Also included in the chapter

is his daughter, Jean Wallace Douglas, the Wallace Institute's Honorary President, who heads the Wallace Genetic Foundation and "has given major support to sustainable agriculture ventures and environmental projects."

Another chapter profiles "150 Who Made Such a Difference," 150 Iowans "who have made particularly significant contributions to agriculture," including these Wallace Institute leaders:

**Norman A. Berg**, a current member of the Wallace Institute's President's Council and former Chief of the USDA's Soil Conservation Service, "one of the strongest advocates for wise land-use and conserving the nation's natural resources."

**Paul Johnson**, a former Wallace Institute Board Member and Chief of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, "the chief architect and sponsor of one of the most historic and far-reaching environmental programs ever enacted by the Iowa legislature—the 'Groundwater Protection Act' that became a national model."

**Dick and Sharon Thompson**, whose on-farm research receives funding from the Wallace Institute; Dick Thompson is a former Wallace Institute Board Member. "The demonstration aspect of their farm has not only played an important role in technology transfer, but it has also convinced other farmers, through positive results, that the new practices are worth attempting."

**Tom Urban**, a current Wallace Institute Board Member and former President, CEO, and Chairman of the Board of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, who "combined business education knowledge with knowledge of the farmer, maturing into a futuristic leader on the cutting edge of today's international business world."

### **Dr. Arshad Joins AJAA Editorial Board**

Dr. M. (Charlie) Arshad has become a member of the Editorial Board of the *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture*,

the Wallace Institute's quarterly, peer-reviewed journal of research on alternative agriculture. Dr. Arshad is a Research Scientist in Soil Physics and Management for the Northern Agriculture Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, which he joined in 1984. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Soil Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

After working as a Soil Scientist at the Alberta Research Council and the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Arshad spent 12 years overseas establishing teaching, research, and agricultural development programs, including work in Nigeria and Kenya. He returned to Canada in 1981 to work as a Senior Soil Scientist at the Soil Conservation Service, Agriculture Canada. His present research concentrates on soil physical, chemical and biological properties as affected by cropping and tillage practices.

### **In Memory of Don F. Hadwiger**

After a long illness, Don F. Hadwiger, a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture*, died in January at age 66. He had been on the *Journal's* Advisory Board since its first issue. At the time of his death, he was an Emeritus Professor in the Department of Political Science at Iowa State University.

Dr. Hadwiger wrote the article on "Henry A. Wallace, Champion of a Durable Agriculture" in the *AJAA* (Volume 8, Number 1, 1993) after the Institute for Alternative Agriculture was renamed the Henry A. Wallace Institute for Alternative Agriculture. That article provided a perspective on the connections between the life and work of Henry A. Wallace and the purposes of the institution which had come to bear his name.

Hadwiger received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Oklahoma, his Masters degree from the University of Nebraska, and his PhD degree from the State University of Iowa. He then taught at Southwest Missouri State College from 1956 until he joined the political science faculty at Iowa State University in 1962. During

1957-1959, he was an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow, and in 1965-1966 was an Outside Scholar in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Hadwiger, a long-time student of agricultural history, concentrated his research in the field of U.S. agricultural politics and policies. He wrote several books in that area, including *Pressure and Protests: The Kennedy Farm Program and the Wheat Referendum of 1963*, *The Policy Process in American Agriculture* (both with Ross Talbot), *Federal Wheat Commodity Legislation*, and *The Politics of Agricultural Research*.

By 1970, Hadwiger had become well-recognized in the political science academy in his field of specialization. He edited, and published in, several books and symposia, often with William Browne, beginning with *The New Politics of Food*. During these years, he was also a contributor of chapters in several other policy studies books. His essay on "Agriculture Policy," in *Nationalizing Government: Public Policy in America*, became a standard reference.

He also published articles in *Agricultural History*, *Public Administration Review*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Public Personnel Management*, *Food Policy*, *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, and *Technology in Society*.

Hadwiger was a member of the editorial board of the *Policy Studies Journal*, where he served as editor from 1990 to 1993. He was also a member of the editorial boards of *Agricultural History*, *Journal of the Great Plains*, *Agriculture and Human Values*, and *American Review of Political Science*. He was also an active organizer and participant in numerous professional panels and symposia.

"Don was an ardent believer in the proposition that a political scientist should involve his expertise in the ongoing political life of his community, state, and nation," the *Policy Studies Journal* wrote after Hadwiger's death. "He didn't love or seek controversy but he certainly was willing and able to enter the public arena when he decided, as he did often, that it was his civic and professional responsibility to do so."