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I am particularly glad to be here and to become a little better informed on the problems that are involved in the growing of sunflowers. I think of one thing that I want to straighten out here. We have made repeated attempts to obtain funds for sunflower research, but some place between Plant Industry Station and the Bureau of the Budget these items have been deleted. I am not here to talk about how funds for research are obtained, but I can assure you that we do have a real interest in sunflowers.

Now, what do I think about the future of sunflowers? That is a hard question to answer. I don't want to paint a gloomy picture, and I don't want to paint a picture that is too rosy. I think 4 or 5 years ago when Dr. Herbert Kramer, who was then at Purdue and who is now associate director at the experiment station at Nebraska, spent some time studying oilseeds in Russia. When he came back I asked him, "What about the possibilities of sunflowers in this country?" He said, "Well, in Russia they needed vegetable oils; they started working on sunflowers; they put on a great deal of work; and they came up with a satisfactory oilseed crop. In this country we started working on soybeans, and we came up with a crop that has produced usable oil." He also said, "In either country I think it could have gone either way with a shift in emphasis." I think perhaps there is something to that.

At the moment we have more edible oils than we really know what to do with. I think that the price situation is going to be a determining factor in the market for a long time from the standpoint of the amount of sunflower oil that might be marketed. I think that if we are going to increase the acreage of sunflowers materially, as much as we possibly would like to, we have to think in terms of getting into the oil market. In the grocery stores in Washington, D. C. area we can sometimes buy 2 pounds of a fairly good grade of margarine for 29¢. Now, that means there is some pretty inexpensive oil going into it. I am pretty sure that it is soybean oil. How they make it for that price I don't know, but if you watch the margarine that is going out of the market, it is pretty largely the cheaper grades, rather than the premium grades. I think we have some serious competition. I am not talking about quality, I am talking about price. On the other hand, I think there is another thing we must consider. We are talking about sunflowers which in terms of reach in this country is a relatively new crop; and we are comparing it with soybeans, which is a relatively old crop. I remember, back in 1917 in eastern Nebraska, my father grew two crops of soybeans one year, his first and his last. Since then soybeans have become very productive in that area because we have improved varieties, and we know a great deal about how to grow them that we did not know before. They are now part of the normal crop rotation in that area. I think the same thing can be done with sunflowers if we put the same

amount of engery into it and develop suitable varieties that have disease and insect resistance or at least learn how to control these pests by various methods. I think that man ought to be smart enough to know how to or to learn how to overcome these enemies of our crop that have no intelligence. I think it can be done. Whether or not we do so is going to depend on a number of things. One is going to be the economic situation. Others are the relative importance that we may attach to the crop and whether we have a group of dedicated scientists who are willing to overlook some of the other things and bore in on the problems, solve them and come up with the necessary improved varieties.

Now, I don't think I have told you anything that you didn't already know, but that is how I feel about it.