OUTLINE FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES IN HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT

J. CLYDE MARQUIS, Philadelphia, Chairman.
L. W. PAGE, Washington, D. C.

1. Economic history of transportation over trails and highways.
2. The economic history of the development of trans-continental trails and their influence on the opening of the West.
3. The economic factors determining the proper location of highways.
4. The history of highway construction with regard to permanency, cost and value.
5. Types of highway construction with relation to geographic location, economic requirements and national policies.
6. Development of motor transportation over highways.
7. The economics of motor transportation for commercial purposes.
8. Review of the development of legislation controlling highways.
10. The relation of transportation to rural and urban development.

PUBLIC GRAZING LANDS IN THE WEST

A Subject for Research by Advanced Students in Economics

ROMANZO ADAMS, Chairman.

The United States has several million acres of public land which because of its mountainous and arid character is worth more for grazing than for other purposes. Some of this land is included within forest reserves and such land is administered according to an intelligent policy designed to conserve the water, the timber, and the pasturage and to favor the utilization of the pastures by the smaller farmers and stockmen, thereby conserving general social interests. By far the greater part of the public grazing lands lie outside of the forest reserves and for these lands there is no administration or regulation. There are, however, numerous laws providing for the disposal of such lands to private owners. For more than a century it has been the policy of the government to dispose of the public land in small allotments in order to create a numerous class of small independent land owning farmers, and thus to create economic and social conditions suitable to a democracy. Under the practical conditions which prevail in important parts of the West the present laws for the disposal of public land are not securing this result. Excessively large farms and stock raising enterprises are characteristic and there is ground for the view that the present system of land laws and the lack of a system
of administration for the grazing lands is partly responsible
for this.

The very large ranches and stockraising enterprises tend to
create unfortunate social conditions. The most important of these
relate to the migratory labor population to which they give rise
and to the isolation of farm families by reason of the great size
of land holdings.

The following problems are suggested for each state having con-
siderable public land.

1. How the Public Grazing Lands are Utilized in the Absence
   of Legal Control.

2. How the Forest Reserves are Utilized Under a System of
   Legal Control.

3. The Practical Operation of the Homestead Laws and Other
   Laws for the Disposal of Public Lands in Relation to Grazing
   Lands Unfit for Cultivation.

4. A Statistical Study of Large Farms and Large Stockraising
   Units.

5. Economic Aspects of Large Farms and Stockraising Units.
   Advantages and Disadvantages of Large Scale Production.

6. Social Aspects of Large Farms and Stockraising Units. Isola-
   tion of Families; Schools; Migratory Laborers.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN AGRICULTURE

JAMES E. BOYLE, New York, Chairman.

Introductory Statement.—The American people first under-
stood and endorsed collective bargaining in industry when the
United Mine Workers of America, in the bituminous coal fields,
dealt with the mine owners by this method of collective action.
In the "parliaments" held from time to time by representatives
of the mine workers and representatives of the mine owners, the
bargain was made covering hours, wages, and working conditions.
These bargains were ratified and observed by the workers. In
this manner peace was brought into this great fundamental industry
—a peace based (to use our political formula) on the "consent of
the governed." Industry is now using the collective bargain exten-
sively in many trades and occupations in addition to the United
Mine Workers cited above. The clothing manufacturing trade is
perhaps the latest to make the transition to this form of democrat-
ization of industry.

The question now before us is, What is the place of Collective
Bargaining in Agriculture? A number of secondary problems are
involved here, such as these: Should collective bargaining in agri-
culture be between the organized producers and the organized con-
sumers, or between the producers and the distributors? At this stage
of development, collective bargaining seems to be largely between
producers and distributors. Is collective bargaining price fixing?
And if it is price fixing, is it legal? Is collective bargaining a

110