

This will require selection and breeding for resistance to such stresses as air pollution. Greater emphasis is needed in solving some of these pressing problems. We cannot ignore our role in enhancing man's environment.

CLOSING REMARKS

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Ladies and Gentlemen and Guests: For the past several days we have been exposed to a multitude of words of wisdom, have enjoyed a delightful tour of the St. Paul area and, in addition, have enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow propagators and dear friends. In 1953 I had the pleasure of attending my first meeting as a guest of Hugh Steavenson. I recall Hugh's explanation of the International Plant Propagators' Society as being an extremely unique organization, wherein exchange of ideas were freely expressed. This general theme and philosophy is still with us today. We heard on the first day of the meeting the expression of the International Plant Propagators' philosophy as expressed by Jim Wells, and I think it goes without saying that all of us in this room have a bit of this inner feeling, if you will, to plant propagation and its role in the nursery community. Without a doubt, the plant propagator today is a man respected and certainly appreciated by his fellow nurserymen.

Just one week ago tonight, I spent a pleasant hour in rereading the Proceedings of our first meeting and it was fascinating to reread the words of the gentleman who founded this Society. I would place it in my library bookshelves with Hemingway, perhaps, on one side and Robert Frost on the other. We have all witnessed the excitement of change in the 20 years of this Society and I think probably today the challenges are certainly as great, or perhaps even greater, than they were a score of years ago. Today's present market and plant challenges are quite different than they were during the first years of this Society. This morning you heard George Oki give an outstanding talk in summing up and putting together the words and the ideas that were expressed during this meeting. He told us what it means for the nurseryman and the nursery community to take from this meeting the ideas engendered and return to implement them. The language was certainly well expressed and it would behoove all of us to utilize the knowledge that we have been exposed to this week, and fit it into our own specific organization. So today, the present, we are witnessing new thoughts and a new standard, if you will, for 1970. In the next score of years it would be fascinating to gaze into a crystal ball

and see where we are and to see where we will be in our very sophisticated field. Very few people in this room can be visionary enough to predict how a *Taxus* plant will be propagated differently than today. I do venture to guess that there will be great breakthroughs in seedling propagation, and some of the more visionary propagators will certainly lead their respective firms and the entire nursery industry on to larger adventures. Earlier I made a reference to an American author whom I admire greatly. Of all of the works that Robert Frost created, the one poem that sticks very closely in my mind closes with a stanza that says, "The woods are lovely, dark, and deep and I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep — and miles to go before I sleep." I think we could take the words of Mr. Frost and use them as a summation for this tremendous meeting. We all have the next step up the ladder, whether it would be a better earning picture on our financial statement, or whether it would be an improved technique of rooting *Magnolia x soulangeana* — it really makes no difference. The basic factor here is that the step is there for us to take and with ingenuity, industry, and much perseverance all of us in this room will take that step.

I would be remiss if I didn't once again acknowledge the tremendous help and assistance in formulating this very important Society meeting. I am not going to make the mistake of trying to name names because inevitably when one does this someone is overlooked, unintentionally. But I will say now and for the record for all of the members who first of all helped plan and formulate this program, and secondly for all of the members who attended the program, particularly our members from the Great Britain and Ireland region, my deep, sincere appreciation. It was a fascinating experience and certainly an exhilarating one. To all of you, once again, my deep thanks. May you all go in peace and walk at the right hand of God today and tomorrow. I now pronounce this twentieth meeting of the International Plant Propagators' Society adjourned — *sine die!*