I am happy to open the twenty-ninth business meeting of the Society for Economic Botany (SEB) here at the University of California at Davis. That the identity of any society can be retained within the larger context of the annual AIBS meeting is due in a large measure to the systematic organization of the AIBS and to the individual responsible for local arrangements of the Society, Professor Barbara Webster, associate dean for graduate research and development at our host University. Certainly, throughout the year, I could not have asked for more able and forthcoming help than that received from Greg Anderson, SEB President, 1986-1987.

I will admit to having attended the first membership meeting of SEB in 1959 at Purdue University. Many of those who attended that meeting—Richard Schultes, Julia Morton, John Thieret, Ed Mika—continued as active members of the Society and have long served in various capacities: Schultes as editor of Economic Botany, Mika as Treasurer for many years, Thieret as book review editor for 26 years and now as editor. Schultes and Morton have both been awarded the title of distinguished economic botanist. Morton has hosted two annual meetings in Coral Gables. And who can deny that Julia is a Treasure of the Society.

The Society has shown trends and changes in inclination over the years. Industrial and commercial plant utilization was more prominent earlier; systematics, and natural products in medicine and ethnobotany are more prominent than they were. But throughout its existence the Society has been marked by the commitment of its members. This trait is especially noteworthy when we consider, as Greg Anderson (Economic Botany 42:135-137. 1987) pointed out last year, that few (none?) of the members are employed formally as economic botanists. In this respect we differ from other societies, whose members are more closely related by the occupation at which they work or for which they train. Holding us together along with the commonality of interest is that curious factor of commitment—sitting through an 8-hour meeting on Saturday led Council members to sense commitment, and more.

Plans for the 1989 meetings at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville are well along. Our dates are Monday, 12 June–Wednesday, 14 June. Many will want to arrive on Saturday, 10 June, both for reasons of air fare economy and to take advantage of the opportunity for field trips in that beautiful region. Dr. Edward Schilling in collaboration with Dr. James Caponetti, both of the University of Tennessee Department of Botany, are looking after local arrangements, which include field trips of relevance to economic botany. Dr. Stephen Brush of the University of California at Davis is preparing a multidisciplinary symposium on crops in village agriculture.

Our meetings for 1990 are in the active planning stage for the Forest Products Laboratory and the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

The Society has long recognized its responsibility for encouraging the scientific pursuits of young scientists in the diverse fields of economic botany. Annually the Society presents the Fulling award for the best paper contributed by an in-

Economic Botany, 43(1), 1989, pp. 133-135
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dividual who is a student or who is no more than 5 years beyond the Ph.D. The granting of the award—the responsibility of a small committee appointed at each year’s annual meeting—carries with it a prize of one hundred dollars and a certificate from the Society. This year the Society is pleased to announce that David E. Williams, Institute of Economic Botany, The New York Botanical Garden, is the recipient of the Fulling Award for his paper “Evidence for the origin of the erect peanut, *Arachis hypogaea* ssp. *fastigiata* Waldron.”

Over the past year the increase in dues voted by the membership at the 1987 Annual Meeting has strengthened the Society’s treasury and has not brought about a detectable loss of membership. With the strengthening of the treasury, the Council felt sufficiently confident at its 13 August 1988 meeting to authorize the preparation of a new membership directory (the most recent, the one with the yellow cover, is dated January 1987); to continue our newsletter; to respond positively to professional proposals for membership development; and to encourage the formation of an international chapter of the Society in Mexico.

By way of encouraging the activities of economic botany outside of the United States, the Society will aid in the formation of international chapters. The *ad hoc* Committee on International Chapters begun by C. Earle Smith, Jr., and continuing with co-chairs Brian Boom and Robert Bye, with Linda E. Newstrom and Ludivina S. de Padua, has completed its work. It has proposed the formation of an International Chapter of the Society in Mexico; it is to be hoped that this will provide a model for such activities elsewhere. Regulations for the formation of Chapters of the Society are provided in Article 10 of the SEB Constitution (see *Economic Botany* 36:243-255. 1982.).

The Council acted on 12 August 1988 to award the title of Distinguished Economic Botanist for 1989 to Dr. Jack L. Beal. Dr. Beal, now retired from his professional and administrative positions in pharmacognosy at The Ohio State University, has been honored for his teaching and research through a long academic career. The Society is honored that he has accepted this title, which will be officially awarded him at the 1989 SEB meetings.

I want to commend Peter Bretting and to recognize his vigorous and successful efforts in the raising of funds to complement the Society’s contribution toward the support of a fine symposium: New Perspectives on the Origin and Evolution of New World Cultivated Plants.

Thanks go to Trish Flaster (with Charlotte Gyllenhaal and Michael Balick), who put together our first Newsletter. The SEB Newsletter will be continued, but we must have items to include in addition to SEB business. Send notes and announcements of items likely to be of interest to the membership to Trish (2115 Orchard Ave., Boulder, CO 80302).

Under the editorship of John W. Thieret, *Economic Botany* continues to be the most significant and visible of Society activities. Thieret is a demanding editor who requires the best of authors and reviewers. The interval between submission and publication is now about one year, but could be shortened—especially by greater attention on the part of authors to the Manuscript Requirements and to the style of a few recent papers published in the journal. The Council, acting upon the report of Brian Boom, managing editor, has approved a one dollar increase (now $13.50) in the per member contribution of the Society toward production of *Economic Botany*. 