

TRANSPORTATION

Work Group Discussion
by
Raymond M. Owensby
New Mexico State University

It was the general consensus of the participants of the Transportation work groups that much of the technological development in transportation has out paced the ability to control and motivate the effective and efficient implementation of these developments.

The transportation sector does present several unique problems. At the outset it was pointed out that there exists only a few transportation specialists and these are generally separated from top management and the decision making area. As a result, the team structure between transportation specialists and management decision makers is nonexistent and, therefore, difficult if not impossible to control effectively.

Other problems include the lack of a sufficient transportation data base. This is particularly true in the agricultural sector due to agricultural exemptions from ICC regulation. As a result, documentation of problem identification is difficult to accomplish.

It was pointed out by several participants that unloading points or distribution centers rather than originating points create the largest single bottleneck in the efficient distribution of product.

Several potential areas of study were outlined as follows:

1. Comparison of energy usage and costs of trailer on flat cars (TOFC) and the use of twin-trailers. This study should

include the cost of time delays under each alternative as well as the mileage zone of indifference between truck and TOFC.

2. Examine cost effectiveness alternatives between contract carriers and company owned fleets. This must include the identification and documentation of what are the costs and how they should be measured.

3. Examine the potential for a combined local shipping system. This would include combined loads for perishables such as meats and produce.

In summary, the transportation work group outlined the following points:

1. Lack of sufficient data base; particularly on exempt agricultural commodities. This data base includes both cost and throughputs and the development of cost data by individually mode and in the aggregate transportation sector.

2. Problems in transportation impact more at the distribution center rather than at originating points.

3. Technical result demonstrations as a research format would be useful.

4. Studies of the system and the various inter-relations would be useful, however, much of the attention must be given to problems in local delivery.