Dr. Robert A. Porter addressing the meeting.

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION
ON
MATTERS PERTAINING TO RACING
HELD BY
THE JOCKEY CLUB
IN THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF RACING
SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 1965

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INTRODUCTION BY

OGDEN PHIPPS
Chairman of The Jockey Club

First I want to welcome you all — some of you have come quite a long way. This meeting is the largest that we have ever had as we have close to 100 people here.

We have changed the format and we are going to have a talk by Dr. Porter on The Jockey Club's Statistical Bureau. Drs. Gilman, Peters and Reed will speak to us about taking x-ray pictures of many two-year-olds, and discuss what was found. Also Mr. Thomas Deegan is going to talk to us on Public Relations in Thoroughbred Racing. We will then have a panel of Racing Secretaries.

After the meeting is over we will have cocktails on the terrace and will be the guests of The New York Racing Association at the track for lunch.

Now I am going to turn the meeting over to Mr. Kennedy.
MR. KENNEDY: I would just like to add my thanks to Mr. Phipps’ to all of you for coming here. I would like especially to note the presence of the man who pioneered these conferences, Mr. Marshall Cassidy, and thank him very much for attending today.

(Applause)

We will get into the program right away. I am going to ask Dr. Robert Porter, the Vice President of Spindletop Research Center at Lexington and their Technical Director, to bring us up-to-date on what we are trying to do down there and the developments to date.

DR. PORTER: Mr. Phipps, Gentlemen: We have a problem in data storage and retrieval. It’s not much different from the storage and retrieval problem in an insurance company, a hardware store, or a bank. There is one difference—a problem which is not so serious in insurance companies and hardware stores—the problem of names. I am sure you are all familiar with this difficulty, but for the sake of illustration, if you were to thumb through the sire index in the beginning of the Saratoga Yearling Sales catalogue, you would find that there was a certain horse sold on the fourth day of the sale which had a sire called “Match II.” If you turned to the referenced page in the catalogue, you would find that you had been duped, as the sire of this horse, according to the catalogue page, is “Match”—no asterisk, no “II.” As I understand the rules, these are both wrong. I believe that the filly is by a stallion standing in England, but there is no stallion by either of these names standing in England. In England he is (no asterisk) “Match III.”

Being aware of the problem of names and as an intelligent person, you wouldn’t be bothered by this difficulty if you had bought the filly, but the machine is not very smart about those things. The machine has to be told somehow or other that when a horse is called by different names they all mean the same horse. Because this is the type of problem we encounter with names in our records, one of our first files is what we call a zip code file. In this file we have given every horse a number. The numerical order of these numbers is the same as the alphabetical order of the horses. This identification method is very similar to what is done in a bank.

The zip code file (and the file is not a drawer) is a roll of tape containing 280,000 zip codes: the zip code identification for the horse; the collapsed name of the horse, which is the kind of thing you have to do if you are going to alphabetize; the full name of the horse; and, for checking purposes, the year of birth of the horse. The file is sort of an index of what is in the machine. In the machine we do all of our computations and tracing with zip codes. We go in with a name, translate it into a zip code, come out with a zip code, and translate it back into a name again.

Another kind of information we have is the pedigree file. This is essentially stud book information: the horse, dam, dam’s sire, state where foaled, color, year of birth, and the name of the breeder. The total number of horses we now have in the pedigree file is 270,000. The breeding information contained in this file is recorded on about 1½ miles of magnetic tape.

The next major file we call the “current racing file.” In it are two sorts of information—race information and horse information. (There was a current racing file for 1964 and, of course, we are 2/3 or so through the current racing file for 1965.) Every start in North America is in this file—the identification of the horse, the weight carried, the post and finish positions, the distance behind the winner. The file also contains the earnings, if any, in the race. Race details include the conditions, the number of runners in the race, the purse, the track classification and the indication of records. By “indication of record” I mean whether it is a new American record, or equals the world’s record, or other record-breaking performance.

The pedigree file and the current racing file are the two basic files, but there are several others.
There is a summary racing file. The current racing file started the 1st of January, 1964, but the summary racing file goes back to 1932. It consists of a one-line summary—starts, wins, seconds, thirds and money earned—for each horse for each year that it raced since 1932. There is a total of about 600,000 one-line summaries.

We also have a stakes file which is something like the current racing file except that it deals only with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishers in stakes. This file goes back also to 1932, but has complete details—all the sort of information we have in the current racing file.

A mare file lists the produce of all mares. A race file summarizes the conditions of races. We are thinking of establishing another file which deals with sales.

What can we do with these files of information? One of the things we can do is routine listings. We have prepared for the Thoroughbred Record and the Canadian Horse summaries of the top 75 stallions and the top 75 sires of 2 year olds, and things of this sort.

A task which is not quite so routine is cataloguing, a task we are just getting into. Here we encounter the problem that some horses are better than others, at least as far as the information that goes into a catalogue is concerned. If we take out of the files enough data so that for each horse there will be sufficient information to fill a page, there is much too much information to go on one page. If a horse is from a very productive family. For example, we discovered we had 13 pages of information on a horse which had Myrtlewood as its 3rd dam. A sample of catalogue information on 25 horses averaged about 6 pages per horse.

It is evident that the problem is not insuperable. We will, eventually, cut the volume of information down automatically in the machine so that it comes closer to one page. For the present, we can manually strike out and consolidate the data from the unedited machine output in order to reduce the information to the size of a catalogue page. As you know, we are going to do the cataloguing for both the Breeders' Sales Company and Fasig-Tipton—starting in 1966. The basic information will come out of our machine files.

I think the real reason for the development of this file of information was not to do routine things. I think the real reason is to provide the means to do research which has been impractical to do by hand; research which requires that breeding and racing information be assembled in a way that is easy to use. The machine will put information together in practically any way you want it.

I would like to spend some of my time here this morning in discussing one possible sort of research. This research is not picked out because it is more profitable, but just to give you a sample of what we could do if you want it done. This kind of research relates to the duties of Racing Secretaries. (This is in no way saying that Racing Secretaries need more help than other facets of the Thoroughbred Industry.) It furthermore deals with racing conducted by the New York Racing Association, which in no way indicates that the New York Racing Association is in worse shape than other racing associations. It just seems appropriate, in the presence of a panel of Racing Secretaries and with this meeting being conducted on the home grounds of the New York Racing Association, to use this as an example.

The first step in this investigation was to make use of a rating system for horses which we developed some time ago for use in breeding studies. This rating system was based on an assumption that the measure of a horse is whom did he beat, and who beat him and by how much. The rating system compares all horses. How it is done is shown schematically in Chart 1.

Let's say there were 5 races involving a total of 11 horses. The question is: How can horse No. 1 be compared with horse No. 11, even though they did not race against each other? The solid lines indicate how it might be done. Horse 1 can be compared with horse 7 in the first race, horse 7 can be compared with horse 8 in the third race, and horse 8 can be compared with horse 11 in the fourth race. Hence, there is a three-step comparison between horse 1 and horse 11. Of course, a lot of other lines could be drawn which would give comparisons between horse 1 and horse 11. In a sense this is very good because, in effect, there are many comparisons between horse 1 and horse 11, and the average of many numbers is more reliable than the average of a few. In a sense it is inconvenient because it introduces certain mathematical problems—it requires a combined assessment which weighs all of the different paths by which one can go from 1 to 11. However, these problems are solvable; they are, as far as the development of a theory, reasonably standard problems. The practical solution was a little difficult.

How do you compare horses? The measure we have used for comparison is based on the intervals between the horses that finish. That is, one horse beat another horse by 4 lengths, and the second horse beat a third horse by two, and so forth. I am certain at least an hour could be spent discussing whether times or intervals or some other measure is most appropriate. We have used intervals. To my mind, at least, there are arguments which lead to the conclusion that this is probably the best of the methods available.

What about intervals? Chart 2 is based on the racing at Aqueduct this spring starting at the beginning of the season and ending July 10. It shows the average number of lengths between finishing horses; between the 1st and 2nd horse, 2nd and 3rd horse, 3rd and 4th horse, 4th and 5th horse, 5th and 6th, and so forth. The chart is based on races where ten or more horses were entered. I don't know whether the U-shape of the curve is surprising or not; however, almost any sort of model of how horse races should come out, perhaps devised without even having looked at a horse race, would come to the conclusion that a plot of intervals should look like Chart 2—that is, with the curve high on both ends, and the smallest
intervals in the middle. I did, in fact, sit down and think this out before we ever did a tabulation, and I would actually have been very surprised if it hadn't come out this way.

**AVERAGE INTERVALS**

(10 OR MORE STARTERS)

![Graph showing average intervals](image)

The average distance between the first and second horses is about 2½ lengths. In the middle of the pack, the averaged interval has decreased to about 1¼ lengths, and it starts zipping up again at the tail end. The swooping up at the end is not completely symmetrical—the intervals between the last finishers are somewhat greater than between the first finishers.

The fact that races actually do conform to what one would think theoretically gives us confidence to go ahead with the development of the rating system based on intervals. We have used this technique to rate all of the horses which ran at Aqueduct this Spring and, as sort of a by-product of this, have rated the races that they ran in. The rating of the race is not an evaluation of the race in the sense of being closely matched, but is an indication of the average quality of the horses in the race.

One of the other by-products of our rating efforts is an accounting for the effects of weight. The results of our calculations may be of interest. The effect of weight in races of less than a mile is that it takes about 8 pounds to make up a length. In races of more than a mile, it takes about 6 pounds. This is based on actual performance of the horses. I wouldn't like to stress these numbers, particularly because of the fact that this is an incomplete investigation, but I think it is pretty clear that the ratio is more than two pounds per length. We did this calculation on Hialeah races and found the figure to be 5 pounds per length.

We also examined the effects of post position. In Aqueduct races which go around two turns, the effect of the post position is that the outside post position is disadvantageous, to the extent of about 1/7th of a length for each post position. This means that, in a 14 horse field, the outside horse is handicapped about 2 lengths in comparison with the inside horse. For races at Aqueduct which go around one turn, strangely enough, the quantitative effect turns out to be almost exactly half as much. That is, the disadvantage is about 1/14th of a length per post position.

The use made of race ratings for this spring's racing at Aqueduct is to relate race quality to the purse and condition structure of the races. On Chart 3 is plotted the analysis for all of the claiming races. Along the vertical axis is plotted the rating of the race. The rating of the race is essentially the average rating of the horses in it, adjusted for how well they performed in it. The rating of the average of all horses in all starts is zero. Those below zero are worse than average, and those above zero are above average. The top claiming prices of the races are plotted along the bottom, or horizontal axis.

![Chart 2: A graph showing intervals between finishers](image)

![Chart 3: A graph showing race ratings and top claiming prices](image)

The topmost line on Chart 3 is based on the races, unrestricted as to sex for 3-year-olds and up and 4-year-olds and up. Actually, the points for the 3-year-olds and up races and 4-year-olds and up races were computed separately, but they were so close together that only one line was drawn to represent both of them. By comparing the race ratings with the claiming prices (actually the top claiming prices), it can be seen that the horses get better as the claiming price goes up.
The next highest line is the corresponding one for the same class of races, but restricted to fillies and mares. Comparing the two lines, it can be seen that a $4,500 filly is roughly a length and a half worse than a $4,500 colt. This comparison stays just about the same throughout the length of the two lines.

Comparing these lines and the corresponding lines for 3-year-olds, it can be seen that there is a lot of difference between a $5,000 three-year-old and a $5,000 older horse—about a 6-length difference. Perhaps the most surprising thing on this chart is that the curve for 3-year-old fillies lies above the 3-year-old colt line for much of its length. This says that a high claiming price 3-year-old filly is better at the same price, on the average, than a 3-year-old colt. In the two corresponding lines for maiden races and maiden filly races, the colts are better, as they were in the races for older horses.

In general, between $4,500 and $5,000 claiming prices there is about a length of difference. This means, going back to the other weight calculations, either six or eight pounds per $500 in the claiming price at this claiming price level.

The better class races have been similarly analyzed and the results presented in Chart 4. There are not as many of these, so we could not draw as many lines. The horizontal axis is, on this chart, the size of the purse.

On Chart 3, dealing with claiming races, the 3-year-old and 4-year-old lines were quite far apart. In the allowance class the 3-year-olds approach being as good as the 4-year-olds and actually equal the older horses in the top stakes.

There is a difference between the curve for fillies and mares races, and the two curves for open races, which is worth noting. The left-hand part of each curve refers to allowance races. The stakes races are on the right-hand side. For the fillies and mares races, there is a quantum jump between the two sections which is a little surprising. There is no quantum jump for the colts. It appears that the stakes fillies are an awful lot better than the allowance fillies, whereas for colts there is a sort of continuous gradation from top allowance races to the stakes races.

If these two charts (3 and 4) are superimposed, one will find that the cheapest allowance races for older horses attract just about the same caliber of horses as claiming races at about $9,000. The cheapest allowance races for three-year-olds draw about the same caliber of 3-year-old colts as claiming races at about $12,500. The cheapest allowance races for fillies correspond to a claiming price of about $7,500.

This is just a sample of the sort of thing we do; I am not drawing any conclusions from it. A lot more can be done and has been done than has been presented today. This was an attempt to stir up your imagination so that if you have a problem you will ask us about it. If there is something about racing, breeding, or selling that is bothering you or annoying you, why don't you ask us? The only thing I ask of you is, don't say, "No I won't ask that. They obviously couldn't answer it." At least give us a try at it, will you? Thank you.

MR. KENNEDY: Thank you very much, Dr. Porter. Of course we all recognize that the figures presented here are from races in the spring and early summer and the pattern might be different with the fillies in the fall. This was just to stimulate your thinking about what we are storing up in The Jockey Club Statistical Bureau and we are asking you to think of ways it can be used for the benefit of Thoroughbred racing. Does anyone have any question he would like to ask Dr. Porter?

(No response)

A little over a year ago, Dr. Reed and Dr. Gilman started on a program of x-raying the growth pattern of two-year-olds. We are very fortunate today to have Bill Reed, Manny Gilman and John Peters of California to bring us up-to-date on what has been developed in this area. Bill will you start it off?

DR. REED: Mr. Phipps, Gentlemen: in the year 1961 we had a tremendous number of horses breaking down at the New York tracks, which I am sure you are all familiar with. We were called in by racing management to give our opinions as to what was occurring, why it was occurring, and what might be used or done to appreciably aid the situation. The condition of the race tracks was blamed in some cases. It occurred at certain times during a racing season, particularly after the track had been used for a period of time. For example, here at Saratoga we had very few injuries or breakdowns during the early part of the meeting, but the later part of the meeting we found that they increased in intensity. From these interviews a rather disturbing fact became apparent. It was apparent that there were many more injuries in two-year-olds than in older horses.

The Jockey Club appointed a Committee composed of Mr. Joseph Roebling, Mr. F. Eugene Dixon, Jr., and Mr. Ogden Phipps to study this problem further. These men went into the problem in great detail and from conferences with this Committee we developed the so-called epiphyseal study in two-year-olds. At this point it might be well to define what we mean by epiphysis. The medical definition of epiphysis is a piece of bone separated from a long bone in early life by cartilage or
a cartilaginous-like material later becoming part of the long bone. It is this cartilaginous separation that growth in length of the bone occurs. In other words, it is a completely normal process in the development and growth of all animals, including man. For example, it has been stated that when a foal is born his legs are as long as they will ever be. This we know to be completely erroneous. Simply because his legs appear at that time to be out of proportion to the rest of his body, people assume that this is as long as his legs will ever be, but this is not the case. Obviously some animals mature more rapidly than others, as evidenced by the fact that they do not grow beyond a certain age period.

Now to give you an idea of what we mean by epiphysis from a practical standpoint I am sure you are all familiar with the fact that there is great distinction between the use of mutton and lamb in the meat shop, and people many times have been accused of selling mutton for lamb. They teach us in animal husbandry that the way to determine this is to examine the leg and if there is a so-called break joint, you immediately know that this is lamb. This gives you an idea as to how we determine the actual use of the epiphysis from the standpoint of things other than racing.

When an inflammation of an epiphysis occurs due to trauma a resultant epiphysitis occurs. This is very much just like when an appendix has an inflammation, we call that appendicitis. If we get an inflammation of this epiphysis we have what we call epiphysitis. This is represented in the two-year-old by generalized soreness and it might be likened very much to the child who has so-called growing pains. Many children have pains of a non-specific nature when they are in the neighborhood of 12 to 16, and according to the old wives’ tales, they call them growing pains. This area of maturing bone is softer and upon being x-rayed will show stages of maturing and in some cases evidences of excess strain from early training.

The classification of these x-rays that we took was an arbitrary one and actually the animals classified themselves as shown on the X-ray film. We simply classified them in 3 categories, with sub-categories. They were classified A, B and C. The A classification was a sound, normal epiphyseal development at the distal end of the radius or the forearm. Class B showed minor evidences of immature stage of development at the epiphyseal junction. Class C showed gross evidence of epiphyseal immaturity and gapping. We have a couple of slides I would like to show just to give you an idea of what we are talking about before we continue.

(See back of book for diagrams of A and C classifications.)

This is an AP or anterior-posterior view of a knee, (pointing to picture). Here of course are the bones in the knee, and the epiphyseal line is at this margin. This is what we call an A epiphysis. It has completely united.

Next slide You will notice the gapping or the widening at this margin that is outlined. This is a so-called C epiphysis. It is much more immature, it has not united. Even though this gapping is exposed here, it does not indicate that there is anything particularly pathological in this X-ray at all. It simply indicates that it is immature. We do see many cases where one side will have this gapping at the expense of the opposite side. We were called to examine a very expensive yearling here at the sales last week.

We x-rayed and found this condition to be present. In that case we consider it to be pathological. In this case we do not consider this to be pathological or abnormal as this will fill on in.

Next slide: This was one taken in May at Hollywood Park by Dr. Peters.

Next slide: You can see the contrast of the maturity some six weeks later. This was taken in June.

I apologize for the lack of detail in the film because, as I say, it is cut down from 12 or 14 to 35mm. and the detail is almost completely lost.

We further broke the classification down to A-, to B+, B- and C+ and so forth. This gave us a better classification. You could classify those in any manner you like, but this seemed to be a simple standard one that would be readily established.

An interesting thing about this study as far as the management of the stable is concerned, we found several things that the trainers were not aware of themselves at all. One was that a certain percentage of these horses had facts of anything being wrong in the joint at all. We found it is possible to have a variation between the two joints. This is not uncommon in human medicine. At first I was very concerned about this. I thought there was something wrong either with our technique or with the animal, and I checked with several orthopedic men. One was Len Johnson from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington and I found out that this is not abnormal in humans at all. However it does indicate a certain pathological entity inasmuch that there possibly has been some change in the bone and growth development at this time.

An interesting parallel to the study was that one stable adhered quite rigidly from the standpoint of training and management of their two-year-olds, to the recommendations given them. For example if they had a C classification horse they did absolutely nothing in the way of training this horse and gave him adequate time until he developed into a higher classification. This stable ended up with the best year it ever had and with only two horses breaking down, two two-year-olds that had any pathology at all and these two could not be attributed to bone lesions. There were lesions other than bone lesions. Another stable had predominantly a lower classification in all their two-year-olds. They went ahead and raced them and the trainer informed me at the end of the year, when he returned to New York the following year, that he had to send most of these two-year-olds to the farm by late summer as they did not get to the races and were unsound. Only two of those had won two-year-old races and they had won those races late in the fall.

Now the question is frequently asked, “What is meant when epiphysis is seen open as the so-called C epiphyseal classification”? Obviously this is an immature animal and if there is excessive gapping as mentioned a minute ago in one margin of the epiphysis there is also indication that undue stress is being placed on one margin of the bone. Nature compensates for this by building up around this area if at all possible and it is possible to see a slight enlargement, very, very slight, possibly, but in the X-ray it is very visible. Obviously if severe training were given at this time the torque forces which would be applied would result in rotational deformities which could cause unsoundness in the other areas of the leg.

Another question frequently asked is, “What is the significance when an epiphysis is closed”? This of course indicates that the animal is mature or very nearly so in bone development. A classification of the epiphyseal development obviously is not a permanent one. For example the C classification will ultimately become B and finally A classification as they mature in life. We are frequently asked at what age is it best to have a two-year-old X-rayed. According to Dr. Gillman’s figures, which he will show you on his chart very shortly, it is obvious that the two-year-old should be x-rayed in the neighborhood of 690 to 730 days. This is the most critical area as at that time he is very nearly exactly two years of age. However, leeway should be given on this. Frankly I think it is absolutely useless to try and peg any age unless you are spot-checking for any bone pathology. It is perfectly normal for that yearling to have a completely immature or so-called C classification epiphysis.
Another question frequently asked of us is, "Is it necessary to wait until a two-year-old is in the classification AA, or both legs have an A classification, before racing him?" I would say "No," there is no necessity to wait until this. This would depend entirely on other factors as well. I think to race them however, the late maturing two-year-old should be waited on, if he is not in an upper classification.

The question is asked, "Are all equine veterinarians able to take and classify epiphysall x-rays?" Unfortunately, as yet, no. The American Association of Equine Practitioners has on its agenda for this December a study or information as to how these x-rays should be taken. We have sent to us many x-rays from different places in the country and from as far away as Belgium. We are asked to evaluate them, and unfortunately the majority of them are not able to be evaluated. I went to California in July to operate on a horse and was very impressed to see the quality of x-rays that Dr. Peters was taking in California and this is simply through the use of a great deal of experience and knowing what you are doing and how you are doing it. In other words a certain standard technique has to be established in order to evaluate x-rays.

Finally, it is an accepted fact that in human medical field the youth of 16 with an immature epiphysis is much more prone to football injuries than a much more mature professional football player of an older age. Therefore it is obvious that if we are to attain the maximum in soundness and potential of every horse, every consideration should be given to the preservation of soundness at the time he is a two-year-old.

Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Malvius: Dr. Reed, you said it is almost useless to take x-rays of yearlings. In California we are racing horses in January and February. When should a man know the classification of his horses?

Dr. Reed: This is a very pertinent point. When I refer to yearlings, I am referring to yearlings say at this time of the year. I think it would be advisable to spot-check many of them if there is anything suspicious in any yearlings. But he will have at that time a completely immature epiphysis. Now, for you people there, I think you are starting to race two-year-olds in January, I think then it is pretty well to know where you stand with them by x-raying them along, say, in late November and December.

Mr. Kennedy: Thank you very much, Doctor, I will ask Dr. Gilman now to implement your interesting remarks with some data he has prepared from re-examining individual horses in training.

Dr. Gilman: Mr. Phipps, Mr. Brady, Mr. Baggin, Jack: Lameness in the Thoroughbred is a subject that every segment in racing is vitally concerned with. The breeder would certainly like the horses that he has bred to be sound for a couple of years so that they could show their true racing potential. This knowledge could help in selecting future matings. The owners and trainers would like their horses to stay sound long enough to offset the expenses of their racing stable. The jockeys would like to ride only sound horses because their lives may depend upon getting back safely. And last but not least, the various racing associations would like more sound horses to draw from so that they could have full fields to offer the public. In short, we are all in the same boat, we all want fewer sore and lame horses and more sound ones.

I firmly believe that we have the soundest and toughest horses in the world here in America. Where else can you see a Thoroughbred run as often as 30 times as a two-year-old? As often as 100 or more times in his racing career?

We have many such examples in the claiming division, and also some among the better horses. Find won stakes throughout a ten-year-old career; Styname ran 133 times; Teamaker won stakes until he was ten years old; Kelso at eight is still winning some of the largest races in the country. Nevertheless, a large percentage of our horses either never get to the races or break down at an early age. The backstretch and the farms are full of them. We are now of the opinion that perhaps we are doing something wrong with our horses and possibly there is a reason for so many of our young horses falling by the wayside so early in age. We think that perhaps if we waited until the bones of these horses were more mature we would have less horses breaking down at two. And if horses were broken and trained at a later date we would have fewer crippled in the barns.

We must believe that an immature two-year-old cannot possibly do the work required of a mature horse. This is just as true as, to use Dr. Reed's example, a sixteen-year-old football player playing football with the New York Giants. Everyone here would agree that he would be more prone to injury no matter how good a football player he was.

This is the premise that we feel is true with our horses. The sixteen-year-old boy might receive injuries in a game which would bother him for the rest of his life and might even prevent him from ever becoming a good athlete. We feel that young horses that are asked to run before they are mature enough might end up just as that sixteen-year-old boy did, with injuries which might plague him the remainder of his racing days and thus make him a cheap claimer.

To explain this in a little more detail, from March 16 to April 20 of 1964, 88 two-year-olds competed at the New York tracks, at Aqueduct. Many of these same horses in addition ran at an earlier age in California, New Orleans and in Florida. However, in New York we asked these young horses to run 5% of a mile around one turn. This as you know is just 1/8 of a mile shorter than the majority of the older horses run. These two-year-olds are trained just as strenuously as their older brothers, they are asked to carry the same weight, they use the same equipment, are leed, have run-out bits, and they are worked just as often and just as far. Of these 88 two-year-olds that ran during the first five weeks at Aqueduct, 48 of them were under 24 months of age when they made their first start. Their average age was 23 months old. Therefore 54 1/2% of these horses were under two years of age when they first started running at New York. Figuring that it takes at least 3 months of serious training to get a horse to the races, this group of two-year-olds were put in serious training when they were only 20 months of age. The remaining two-year-olds in this group were slightly over two when they made their first start.

Their actual age was 24 months plus 22 days. Again figuring three months to get them to the races, the horses in this group were put in serious training when they were under two, actually 22 months old.

We are not saying, or even intimating, that all these horses broke down as a result of starting so early because they certainly did not. Many of them stayed sound and raced without developing any serious problems. Yet many of them fell by the wayside and are now in the process of being repaired so that something may be realized from their original cost. These are the more fragile ones—the ones who fell by the wayside. They had accidents as they were more prone to injury starting at an early date.

Chart A here shows us that x-raying the epiphysis of the radius of two-year-olds at a certain age can tell us which horses are too immature to race and perhaps those that are even too immature to train. It can also tell us which are the fast maturing horses and which are the slow maturing horses. Now this may be the key.
We haven't done enough work along this line as yet to have the necessary proof. But we may find that the horse that matures rapidly, is able to obtain his full growth and close his epiphysis at an early date, also may have the type of bone throughout his body that will withstand racing. From the information we have that's my opinion. But on the other hand, we may find that the slow maturing horse, the horse that has a lot of trouble with bucked shin and minor problems which all of us recognize as immaturity is the type of horse that finally develops bones which can withstand racing. We don't know that yet. We have to follow horses through their early career with periodic x-rays to get that answer. At any rate, horses do mature at different rates.

On this chart, the heavy black line is two years of age. I have divided the group of horses that Dr. Reed and his associates x-rayed into 40-day groups. The first group is the 40 days under two years of age; next is the 40 days over two; then 80 days and last 120 days. I have taken all the horses in this group of 40 days under two years of age and found out that 52% of the individuals were classified as having BB bone which is slightly immature. Therefore, the average horse at that age is normal if he has BB bone. This is very important in the interpretation of these classifications. If at that age you have an AA horse, you then have a horse that has better bone than normal, you have a horse that matured earlier than normal, and other things being equal you have a horse that has a better than normal chance of staying sound during his racing career.

On the other hand we have 12% of the horses of that age group that were in the CC classification, and as you know the CC classification denotes an immature growing individual. It is nothing to be alarmed about when you have a horse of that age group that is CC; it is something to be concerned about and to adjust your training and management accordingly.

Now we get into the next age group, and the theory changes. 56% of the horses are in the AA group. Therefore, at that age group between 731 and 770 days of age, if you have a normal horse, he should be an AA, not a BB. The BB should be looked upon at this age as the CC in the earlier age group because this group of BB is not ready to run and not ready to stand serious training. The CC group at this age are something to be more than just concerned with. It might be something to be alarmed about. And that kind of horse should only be galloped and put on a good vitamin-mineral supplement until he becomes AA. Those are your slow maturing horses.

In the next age group 75% of the individuals are in the AA group. 23% of the horses are BB. There is quite a difference in the evaluation of a horse that is BB between 771 days and 810 days and a horse that is BB under two years of age. The BB in this age group is just as serious as the CC is here. They are immature horses which are slow to mature. There still are 2% of the horses of this age group that are CC—immature. These particular horses, I think at this time although I am not positive, have something radically wrong with their bone formation. I think we can call them pathologically immature. They may never get to the AA group normally and they may break down before they mature properly.

We get to 811 days to 850 days group. 77% of the horses are AA, 23% of the horses are BB. This 23% which are BB should be taken out of training or put in very slow training and they should be given all sorts of vitamin-mineral supplements until they become mature enough to stand training.

I think this x-raying the epiphysis of young horses is just a basic step in understanding unsoundness in race horses. I don’t think we will ever reach the point of getting 100% sound horses even if we waited until all horses were five years old before putting them in training because all horses are not athletes. There are certain individuals that aren’t built properly, or haven’t got the right type of hoofs, etc. But I do know that if we are able to have 10 or 20 or possibly 25% less cripples in our barns it would be better for the business as a whole. And I think this is the start in the right direction. Why is there such a variation in these particular horses?

You can take a large breeding farm where all the horses are foaled in a similar manner, are worked at the same time, or in a similar manner, are all fed the same way, are raised on the same pastures, etc. What is the big variance? Why should some of them be fast developing horses, why should some of them be slow? I believe inheritance plays the biggest part in the variation that you see here. And if we can understand this variation before the various pathologies start and prevent them, they may not ever occur. Thank you.

(Applause)

MR. KENNEDY: We have a question from Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN: I wonder if Dr. Gilman would comment on this. A lot of trainers insist on taking yearlings to the track in the fall of the year as the first step. They claim they have them in very light training and are just giving them an education. Along the lines that we have been discussing do you think this is advisable?

DR. GILMAN: I think we are all in too much of a rush to get our horses to the races and I am certainly against taking yearlings to the track in the fall of the year, all of them are just yearlings and some of them are a couple of months past being a yearling. On the other hand, if you do take horses to the track in the fall of the year, tracks in a northern climate where the weather gets colder and the track gets frozen are dangerous. They can do an awful lot of damage to their legs on frozen tracks, whereas down in Florida or southern California, where there are good sandy tracks all winter, less damage would be done. I don't know whether that answers your question or not.

MR. KENNEDY: I would like to take this opportunity to compliment and thank the management of Hollywood Park and also Santa Anita for picking up this program on the West Coast. In that regard we have Dr. John Peters here who will comment on the extension of the program in that area.

DR. PETERS: Mr. Phipps, Gentlemen: I think Dr. Reed’s and Dr. Gilman’s explanations are adequate on the program of the x-ray so that I am not going to enter into that at all. I just want to state what we have done in California. We were very fortunate during the early part of the Hollywood Park meeting to have Mr. Kennedy come to California. We went to San Francisco and met with many owners and trainers up there at dinner one evening. He explained the program as it had been set up in New York, and got us off to what we think was an excellent start. As this was new to us, we were in a quandary as to just how to enter into the program, but we finally decided that its actual conduct should be given over to a disinterested person.

We nominated the services of Dr. Myron Thom who has worked with the x-ray study of horses for 20 or more years. He is not a practicing veterinarian on the race track, so that we had no complication there. Hollywood Park went to great expense in buying all of the necessary equipment and Santa Anita will share in the expense from here on, I am sure. We bought a 200mm. x-ray machine which is quite adequate. It cut down the time required for taking x-ray pictures.

I will give you a few of the statistics that we have compiled to date. We took x-rays of 450 horses. Of the 450, 240 were placed in Class A, 150 in B and 60 in C. The results were either given personally to the owners and trainers or sent by mail. This information was confidential and given only to the owner and trainer.
However, we had the name of the horse and compiled a system indicating the A, B or C classification in a way that would not reveal the name to anyone looking at the pictures. This of course eliminated complications.

In Class A there were 117 or about 50% of the 240 horses so classified which started 184 times. 46 started once, 33 started twice and 24 started 3 times. In regard to performance in Class A, of the 117, we had 26 winning races, 27 seconds and 23 thirds; 73 were unplaced.

As we went down into Class B and farther down into Class C the number of winners fell off. Of the 65 in Class B, 11 won. Of the 21 in Class C there were only 2 winners with 29 unplaced and in Class B there were 115 unplaced.

In May, our first month of x-raying, we had in Class A 40%, in Class B 43% and in Class C 17%. One month later our class A increased to 54%, 33% in B, 13% in C. In July our class A classification rose to 57%, while B decreased to 28% and C to 15%. We were seeing at this point, two months later, a definite increase of maturity indicated in the bone structure. This fall, we hope to recheck as many as we can of the C's and of the B's and see what classification they will fall into.

The question has been brought up about x-raying yearlings and how much good that will do. We plan to set this up at Santa Anita and at present think we will start the program about the middle of November. Obviously that time our x-rays are probably going to indicate very few, if any, in the A, B or C classifications so we will drop down a series to classifications D, E and F. Using this system we hope that trainers and owners will have some indication as to the maturity of their horses and may be able to identify those that obviously need to be given more time and those that perhaps should be raced sparingly at Santa Anita.

Another project we are working on is the area in a state where horses have been raised but not particularly foaled. Naturally some of them will have been foaled and raised in the same area. The area where they were raised is important because we may find that some particular farm shows a definite pattern. We may be treading on someone's toes but again, this information will be strictly confidential. It will be revealed only to the owners of the individual farms. I am sure if they find out late in the fall that the yearlings which are raised on their ranches all come into the Class C or B, they will be interested in having that information, so that they in turn can do something about it. They may be able to put their horses on some supplementary program which will increase the maturity speed of the individual horse. We have many plans for the future and we hope we can come up with some good information.

(Appause)

MR. KENNEDY: Thank you very much, Dr. Peters.

Before we introduce our next speaker, since we are in the area of research, and taking notice of all the experience here in this room, I would like to put a little thought on the table. We have many, many equine research programs in progress in North America. I do think that there is possibly a lack of coordination of the information that is developed in these programs and very little lateral exchange. I don't know how it can be improved. I would ask Lou Doherty, if he would, as President of The Grayson Foundation, to give us his thoughts on this.

MR. DOHERTY: We do have a real problem. The communication business is bad. Primarily, the real reason for its being inadequate is the necessary time lag before research work is published. This must be checked and rechecked. For instance, the influenza epidemic we had two years ago, there have been no papers published to date. If papers had been published the epidemic would not have occurred in Europe this spring. We have a vaccine, we have no papers. There is no way to speed up these papers. Personal communication between veterinarians and the research workers is not good except in the area where the research is being done. Around Kentucky, for instance, the veterinarians have been using newly developed vaccines even before they knew they were really good. It turned out they are good. Veterinarians in other areas do not know this, they don't have access to this word-of-mouth information.

Lack of communications between our own research workers is an understandable thing. You have great spirit of competition. Basically research men are rather reticent. They are cautious, conservative. There is also a certain amount of jealousy and in a sense the funds with which they do this work are based on their particular success so that they are not willing and cannot easily send this information out until it reaches the stage of publication when their sponsoring institution gets full credit.

There are two things we have to consider as far as communications go. Two major problems. One is national, and I don't think we can do much to improve this. The other is international. On the national question, last March Grayson published a 19-page list of all research in this country that is primarily equine or that affects equines. This list was sent to all of our directors, to many schools, to interested organizations. We had very adequate publicity as to our having compiled it. We made known the fact that we would send it to anyone who was interested, but as of yet we have not had one request for it. We have a large supply of these things, they are being kept current and Grayson will be happy to send a copy of it to anyone that asks.

The international problem is perhaps even more serious because today we have very fast transportation, we are flying diseases which we might have from one area to another. We will take for instance the African horse sickness problem. We don't have it in this country. If we should get it, it would be fatal. Research people tell me it would kill 90% of our horses within six months. The international thing is perhaps easier to solve than our domestic communications problem because here you don't have quite the same degree of jealousy or competitiveness between countries as you do between fellow-workers in their own area.

Grayson has just authorized the assembling of a world conference of the top research workers in the equine field. This conference will be held probably in Europe, probably in the spring of 1966. It will have two purposes. First I think we should say that it is going to be very difficult to organize it. Personalities are going to have to be judged in a sense. We are going to have a language barrier.

It will be by invitation only. It is going to be a lengthy process of getting the right men together and there aren't very many of them. There will be two real purposes for this conference. One will be to discuss the disease problems, how to attack them, what success has been had; also, to discuss the unsuccessful attempts; but more important than the actual work which is available really through papers, more important, we think, is the developing of contacts, perhaps friendship, and most importantly, confidence.

I think a good illustration is this spring when we first became aware of the influenza epidemic in Europe. We were frightened because we did not know what it was. When I say "we" I mean the various research workers, not necessarily Grayson. We were afraid this was a strange, new disease. We did not know it was A2 influenza. If it was a strange new disease we should ask our Government to put an embargo on all animals coming to this country. We had that almost accomplished when the disease was identified. To identify this disease we were on the telephone to Europe, half a dozen calls easily. We luckily found Dr. John Peters in Paris and he was very helpful. Only then did we know that this was A2 and
that it represented no danger to us. They did not have to have it. They had it because they did not communicate with us earlier, did not believe we had developed a sufficiently good vaccine for them to use. We sent it to them. Not the vaccine— we sent the influenza to them by shipping horses to England or France. We could just as easily have sent them the vaccine. But there was no communication between any of us and we think that perhaps the conference that we are going to sponsor will correct that internationally. I think we have a much harder problem here at home. Thank you.

(Applause)

MR. KENNEDY: Thank you, Lou. I would like to point out here that The Jockey Club is a service organization to Thoroughbred racing and if there is any way that our office can assist in circulating information in any respect, we offer that to racing.

Is there anyone else who would like to say anything? Mr. Price.

MR. PRICE: On this question of coordinating the research, I think that The Jockey Club should hire a top administrator, with a staff, to keep track of all the research programs going on all over the world. We would have better communication with these people if we knew what they were all doing. As soon as something definite was discovered, this information could be channeled into The Jockey Club. I know this is going to cost quite a little money if you want to get top people, but this could be raised by, let’s say, increasing the registration fee for foals $10. On the basis of 15,000 foals you have $150,000 there every year to play with. I think this should be set up with The Jockey Club. They have the facilities, and all you need is the personnel for this department.

MR. KENNEDY: Thank you, Jack, for your constructive suggestion.

I now have the privilege and pleasure to introduce to you Mr. Thomas J. Deegan, Jr.

MR. DEEGAN: Mr. Chairman, Jack Kennedy, Officials, Gentlemen, 
Friends of Racing: When Ogden Phipps invited me to be one of the speakers here this morning, I accepted for at least two reasons. One, it was a very flattering invitation to address the men who are the top figures of racing in the United States; and number two, I thought it would provide a fine opportunity for me to talk about something which is such an integral part of Thoroughbred racing—the communicating of the sport to the vast American public. For that reason, and with Jack Kennedy’s concurrence, I would like simply to deal in principle with some of the high points of communications and then open this discussion to the floor so that we can have a real give and take and ideally gain something from this exercise.

I don’t propose to deliver a paper on “How To” in public relations because you have all been through that for many years and you all have your experts back in your respective organizations. I would like to discuss with you a concept, and then I have a recommendation.

There is no precise definition for public relations. I use one which simply says it is putting your best foot forward, communicating a favorable impression of yourself and what you are presenting. Now that is really no different from all of us operating in our communities or in our family lives back home. We like to be well-regarded in the community.

The public relations term has been so distorted and abused at all levels that perhaps a generic term for it is best used, one referred to just a moment ago, as communications—telling our various publics what we would like to have them understand as the facts of our story.

Addressing myself now to our sport, the role played by the racing press, is, as we all know, indispensable. And these are the men who every day know just about all there is to know about racing and the importance of our preserving the trust with them. Last night at the Turf Writers’ dinner, a newspaper man, in making one of the presentations, used a term that says it. He was referring to an important figure in racing who was getting an award, and he said, “I have long trusted him greatly and have a warm affection for him, too.” The key word was “trust.”

So in dealing with the racing press, who are the men we are working with every day, I can’t emphasize too strongly the importance of stating the facts for to mislead any of our racing press friends is a grave error.

Let me cite examples in corporate life and then in sports life. Several years ago a distinguished Cabinet Officer who had come out of private business to become Secretary of Defense, said with complete genuineness (but he happened to have it turned around), “What is good for General Motors is good for the country.” He meant to say, “What is good for the country is good for General Motors.” But that one statement, as I guess all of you remember, was carried around the world and reflected unfavorably on the attitude of big business. It took months to correct and erase from the public mind. Similarly, more recently, another distinguished industrialist, the Chairman of the Steel Corporation, against the backdrop of the Administration’s request not to raise steel prices (and, obviously, without consultation on public relations) frankly issued a statement about the increase in prices which the Steel Corporation would put into effect. Well, the result was resounding in the United States and around the world. It spilled over onto all of big business; damaged the image of big business which happened to be working closely with the Administration.

Going to sports for a moment, perhaps because of the pressure of time, or the forces of economics and scheduling, the public image of the National Football League was set back years when on November 24th, a year and a half ago, while our President was lying in state, the decision was made to go ahead and play that Sunday. They will spend years living down that decision, however right the decision was.

These examples are intended to illustrate that you not only have to be right, but must seem to be right as well.

The racing identification over the years has been ironically fixed in the minds of millions of people by one of racing’s greatest friends who wrote some of the most delightful prose of this generation, Damon Runyon. Because of the tremendous acceptance that he had, and because of the motion pictures which followed, the impression was established throughout the United States that racing belonged to Harry the Horse and Little Miss Marker. A great mistake.

Enormous strides are being made by Thoroughbred racing as is evident here this morning. My fellow speakers have given clear examples of what Thoroughbred racing is doing in the public interest. Things we heard here this morning are to serve the racing public in all of its elements. I can’t think of a more symbolic group of Thoroughbred racing than The Jockey Club Round Table gathering. This represents all the segments. And this is the concept I would like to discuss with you.

I believe that Thoroughbred racing, wherever in the United States it is conducted and at whatever level it is conducted—the non-profit group in New York, the private enterprise group in California, jockeys, Commissioners, owners, breeders, trainers, the racing press—must consider that they are dealing with one generic term, “Racing,” with a capital “R.” Denunciation is more newsworthy than eulogy. Hence, we must be vigilant about the things we do at every level, because the most obscure incident involving a member of the backstretch group happening
in the farthest point across the Continent can readily become a front-page story all over the United States.

Or, the behavior in a corporate board room of someone who is a distinguished figure identified with Thoroughbred racing as an owner or breeder publicly spills over adversely on our sport. So I would like to develop with you the importance of thinking of Thoroughbred racing totally, not just individual tracks, or individual stables, or the interests of the jockeys or of the trainers or track operators, but to think of Racing, the sport we live in.

This is not only a sport involving millions of persons, it involves new multi-millions of dollars, whether we like it or not, and Thoroughbred racing could not be conducted as it is conducted here in the United States without those dollars to provide the purses and the facilities. We know this as a fact of our sport, our business. To do this we have to have more than just a racing audience. We have to build constantly a groundswell of favorable public opinion because while Thoroughbred racing is the largest spectator sport, and attracted 40,827,872 persons in ’64, there are many more millions whom it has not attracted yet, but who are a voice in public opinion. And when a racing issue arises in our various states it is that body of public opinion, that favorable acceptance of Racing with the capital “R” that we need to win our fight, not just the people who come to the track.

Our press embraces, not only the racing experts, many of whom are sitting here this morning, but the political press, the general press, the labor press, as we all know from experience. For these writers we must keep a constant, general favorable public opinion going. They are telling the story whether it is a state house story, or general news, or a labor story; so we can’t stop just with our own sports writing corps.

There are countless examples of the great strides in enlightened communications and public relations which Racing has to offer. One of them, right here in our own community, in the New York Racing Association, was the introduction of the closed circuit television in the press box, to share with the film patrol and the decisions made by the Stewards. Other tracks around the country have taken up this popular project. This was done as part not only of servicing the press but to underscore the word, trust. “Full disclosure” it is called in corporate life. Nothing is more convincing, whether it is a stockholders’ meeting or a decision from the Judges’ Stand at Saratoga.

In New York and at other tracks, especially those which are publicly held, the introduction of the annual report, an evidence of a full disclosure, has been extremely popular. It not only serves as a total disclosure of how the business operates, but also, by skillful selection of distribution, helps to educate a large segment of the publics we are talking about. Those publics are no longer limited to the wonderful characters in the Damon Runyon stories. Statistics are in the hands of all of you which show within the period of the last ten years the constantly broadening markets. Perhaps even better evidence is the establishment and building of the kind of tracks which have been constructed within the last ten years for broader markets to make it a family sport. And while the law in various states provides the age minimum when the young people in the family may go to the windows, the fact that they are at the track with their families says a million words about the character of Racing and the confidence which the American public has in the sport.

I feel strongly that racing must be considered as Racing. I would like to respectfully submit a suggestion and a recommendation, a proposal to The Jockey Club Round Table: I believe that from this group which represents all segments of our sport, we should have a standing Public Relations Advisory Council. This group would meet periodically and discuss with principals of the various segments of the sport, counsel with its experts, advise with the racing press and at least once a year report to The Jockey Club Round Table with written recommendations. This Council would develop a fountainhead of ideas, experiences, judgments which are not unlike what our friends in the medical profession and the statistical profession have talked about here this morning. I think that with such a body we can meet any challenge to Thoroughbred racing, we can meet the constantly expanding competition and we can further solidify the tremendous standing and character which our sport enjoys in the United States and in the world.

Thank you.

MR. KENNEDY: Thank you, Tom. We welcome any comment or questions directed to Mr. Deegan. Mr. Clay.

MR. CLAY: Mr. Deegan, amplifying what you said here today about the progress made in public relations and advertising and other fields, research is very important. I’ve been very favorably impressed this morning by what has been produced by research. I would like to suggest that consideration be given to more research of our various publics; more studies of people who come to the tracks. Let’s find out our problems. Let’s set up our problems defined. Once we know our problems, we have the brains, the know-how in this room to solve our problems. Along with Mr. Deegan’s recommendation of a standing committee I would like to recommend that the first group of this standing committee be assigned to study the people who come to the tracks.

MR. DEEGAN: This is an excellent suggestion. In New York during the last winter the New York State Legislature had the pari-mutual question before it, the New York Racing Association arranged, in preparation for our posture, to have the most minute statistical research done in the very areas you are talking about—the markets, the age groups, the ethnic groups, the geographical areas, all segments, which I believe you are commenting on. Is that correct?

MR. CLAY: That’s correct.

MR. PERLMAN: I believe one of the greatest problems in racing has been our failure to impress legislators in the various states. The public image of Thoroughbred racing today is at the highest level it has ever attained. Sports writers throughout the country have praised racing as the best supervised of all sports. Yet this has made no impression whatsoever on the legislators. In all my experience of more than 40 years in the sport I have never known of a member of a legislature to defend racing or praise it as a clean sport. How can racing extend its public relations to impress legislators as having benefits other than a cow that can be constantly milked? You have examples of this in many states this year where new legislation has been adopted increasing the take. They are taking more and more from racing without giving any consideration to the fact it has great public acceptance. How do we accomplish this? Where have we failed?

MR. DEEGAN: Sam, I think there is no magic answer, but I believe that the soundest approach is one that is already being used, and must be stepped up. And that’s a continuing education program with the legislators of the various states, and perhaps a little more personal attention to them. I think that we’ve been subjective rather than objective about it and we’ve thought of racing too provincially within our own organizations, without realizing that being a regulated sport we must educate and, within that same word “educate,” cultivate the legislator. It’s not a one-season job. It’s going to take many, many years to do this.

MR. ROBB: The TRA was a war-born organization, as we all know, and we of the TRA had the job, at that particular time, of trying to carry the industry through the war.
We did all right down in Washington, but the press of the entire country seemed to be trying to pin the ears of racing back. We had a clipping service and on the long Board of Directors' table in the TRA headquarters Mike Casale, whom we had engaged, listed in 17 categories the things that were being said about racing. If we had tried to answer all of those writers and editors, we would have needed the ground floor of Madison Square Garden filled with typists.

We just couldn't do that. Obviously the answer was a book. So the TRA Directors authorized the money needed to create and publish a book. Joe Estes wrote a chapter on breeding. Joe Palmer wrote a chapter on training; at that time he was the Secretary of the American Trainers Association. Nelson Dunstan wrote a chapter. We sent Frank Graham down to Aiken during the winter. He wrote chapters on veterinarians, jockeys, blacksmiths. We went out to Chicago, personally, and got Salvator, you will recall John Hervey, and he wrote chapters on "Art and the Thorougbred" and "Literature and the Thorougbred."

In other words, we tried to cover the entire subject. Then, when we had the book which explained what racing was—we called it "Thorougbred Racing and Breeding"—we sent a copy to every editor throughout the United States, and to every sports editor throughout the United States, both newspapers and magazines.

We hoped that the book would explain to these writers and editors what racing actually was, not what they thought it was or had been told it was.

The book became so popular that we decided it would be a good thing to get it out for the public, so we went to Coward-McCann, the publishers, and offered them the type and the copyright. They put it out for the public and it went through three editions, if we recall correctly.

That was 20 years ago and we think that if we in racing could do the same thing again, bringing such a book up to date and then send, gratis, a copy of what racing actually is to every editor throughout the country (we think we printed 17,000 originally) they could keep it on file and when some question comes up they could refer to it, rather than shoot off the top of the head and write things that are absolutely incorrect and damaging to racing. I really think it could be a wonderful thing and not only for the people in racing. It would help to project the proper image of racing and get the correct facts into the hands of those who write for the public, as we tried to do twenty years ago.

Thank you very much.

(Applause)

MR. DEEGAN: Alex, if I may comment on your excellent point, and I know the book you are referring to, it is an excellent thing, particularly if it is kept extremely objective and documentary, if the voices in it are others speaking about us rather than ourselves speaking about ourselves.

MR. ROBB: Right. What I am getting at is that there are experts in every field in this many-sided thing. Just get an expert on each particular facet of racing and have him give the facts to the writer or whoever it is who does the job. If the commentators are properly informed by racing people who are accepted experts in their particular fields, there is no harm (and possibly good) in having "others" tell our story.

MR. SALMON: As a breeder of yearlings and a seller of yearlings, I was most interested in a book at Roosevelt Raceway that was gotten out on how to own a trotter. I've had people come to the sales paddock and ask, "How do I go into racing?" The book is well done, and it is on every table. I think something like that should be done in this business. Somebody should get a group together and write a book to give away, "How to get into Racing." It should be inexpensive and I think you would get a lot of people into racing this way.

MR. DEEGAN: Thank you, Walter.

MR. GAINES: Along the lines that Mr. Periman just mentioned about why the politicians do not seem to have any real regard for racing, it is fairly obvious it is because their constituents do not really realize what racing is doing for their communities, how we are building their schools, parks and municipal buildings. A very obvious example of this where we could effectively influence these people is in the grassroots level. We have 100,000 tourists coming to the Bluegrass every year that are very horse-oriented or they wouldn't be there to begin with. These people go out to the farms, they look at the stallions and the broodmares and have a very nice time. But there is no way we are utilizing these people. If we could get them where we could show them a film, show them the tax structure of what racing means to their state and to their community, I think that over a period of years we would influence a very large number of people that when they go back home they would have a very real idea of what racing is actually doing for them.

(Applause)

MR. MURPHY: Gentlemen, I hope that I will be forgiven for intruding as an outsider in this great gathering of horsemen, but there is one thing I would like to mention here and that is I think it is possible that American horsemen may underestimate the potential value of racing generally to international understanding and the good will of all men. I have seen this remarkably in many tours that Americans have come to in Europe, and particularly last year there were 40 or 50 American horsemen touring over France, England and Ireland, and it was a tremendous thing. In particular at Newmarket where they spent two or three days I remarked at that time the relations between them. The people in Newmarket at first were rather conservative, unfortunately it was a little cold, a little bit sticky, and a little bit prickly for a day or two, but then when they got to know these Americans and saw their love of this great horse that they all liked to see—the ability, the class, the courage, the character, the things that we love in a horse—there was a sudden outburst of warm enthusiasm and friendship for all the Americans that came there, and as some of the people who are here today were at the final function, it was one of the most heartwarming scenes I have ever seen in my life and the friendships that were formed were the greatest things, and I would like to advance this for your consideration.

(Applause)

MR. KENNEDY: Approaching here is our final scheduled panel. We are very fortunate in having here today one of the finest cross-sections of the American Secretariat in the racing field. If all of you do not know these gentlemen, I am going to ask them to stand as I identify them. First, Mr. Fred "Pete" Farrell, who is Secretary in Ohio, Illinois and other places; next, our own Jimmy Kilroe, now at Santa Anita; Doc Lavin of Keeneland, Churchill Downs, Delaware Park and Hot Springs; John Malavis of Hollywood Park; Charlie McLennan of Pimlico and many other places; and the man from NYRA, Tommy Trotter.

Jimmy, I am asking you to start the discussion and keep it going. We welcome any comments or questions from the floor at any time.

MR. KILROE: We thought it advisable in coming up to this panel discussion to have a dry run this morning which we held at the Paddock Bar and Grill, which will confirm the impression that many trainers have of how Racing Secretaries spend their time.

(Laughter)

I think we had a considerable meeting of minds. Every Racing Secretary is confronted by the major problem of getting nine races or eight races filled for the
next day's racing. We have been accused as a group of poisoning the stream of American Thoroughbred racing by the programs we wind up with. Of course in almost every case these programs are more a matter of necessity than any ideal group of races that we might dream of. I think we are all worried about what is really a shortage of horses in this country. We had many thoughts about it this morning—and I am going to get out of the way of this microphone very quickly. My own is that while we do have 35,000 or 40,000 horses—Dr. Porter could probably tell us—somewhere in training in this country, we are not getting any effective use out of about 40% of them who are two-year-olds. Those are the young horses who will come on and make our programs for older horses later. I think there is no question of their being stinted for opportunities all over the country because of the old general saw that a two-year-old betting race is a very weak effort compared to races for proven older horses. There is not a great deal a Racing Secretary can do about it if the management or for whom he works makes it the policy to discourage breed opportunity for maidens, and particularly two-year-old maidens, but if we don't get these horses going we find ourselves trying to get this tremendous increase in racing out of a very tired and ineffective group of horses, the older horses.

MR. TROTTER: There are many things that Racing Secretaries are blamed for—not enough distance races, weights, too many maiden races, and of course another one coming along is not enough horses in the races. I think here is where the Racing Secretary is confronted with something he had nothing to do with. Racing has increased in New York. At one time we opened up in April and ran until November in about 180 days of racing. Now we are opening up in March and we are going as far as December. 254 straight days of racing. I think it is a tremendous strain on the horse and it begins at a time when they are coming right off from winter racing for New York racing. There is no let-up, and from March right into December it is approximately 2,000 races. The problem is too much racing and the fault here lies with the politicians who keep increasing racing dates, not the Racing Secretaries.

MR. MALUVIUS: I think that problem is basically true all over the country. It was such a pleasure to race five days a week, eight races a day. Then when we went to nine a day and in some instances six a day, I think management in a lot of cases forgot the Racing Secretaries by not building enough stalls to provide some more horses. Of course when they do provide more horses you have to get into the bottom of the barrel for cheaper horses. We have been running into that situation and it is obviously true all over the country. I concur with Tommy that it appears we might be having a little bit too much racing. Every time the politicians need some more money, it's additional racing dates. Our biggest problem on the Coast is providing races over a distance of ground. As an example, I was commenting at breakfast this morning that toward the end of our meeting I had a $5,000 three-year-old race, 7/8ths of a mile and could not fill it. The next day I used the same race back at 3/4ths of a mile and had 20 horses in it. That eighth of a mile made that much difference. In so many instances we will have horses that are bred to run long but they are trained to run short. In desperation, at the owner's insistence, trainers will run them long, but not with the proper training. When the race is over the trainer will say, "See Boss, I told you so. He can't go anywhere." He's not fair because the horse was not trained to run long and I think the rest of you gentlemen will find the same thing. Why the trainers don't want to race their horses long when they are bred that way, heaven only knows, because the preferred list on the long races is practically non-existent. And of course, as Racing Secretaries we are accused of not putting enough long races on. We'll put on nine long races a day if the trainers will fill them for us, or if the breeders will supply the horses to run that far.

MR. LAVIN: Everything all you gentlemen said just about covered the questions which we talked over at breakfast this morning. I believe I am in the position that since I go from Arkansas all the way to Delaware, I have different problems every place I go. In Kentucky in the spring my problem is that horses are not ready to run generally. When I get to Delaware horses are completely worn out. We race in Maryland up until December 15 and open early in January, and about 85% of our horses come from Maryland. So horses that are raced January, February, March, April and May, we get them starting in June and it is a little too early. These horses can't run very often. We have carded about every race we possibly could down there, and as for long races, we offered more money for the same type horse, the cheap selling platers, and would give anywhere from $500 to $1,000 more for horses that would go a mile rather than 3/4 of a mile. I have seen the time there in 1964, in the 3/4 end of the race we would have 50 entries and in the long end, one-quarter of a mile more with $1,000 more money, we would have five. That's the story on long racing. I really think the whole problem is there is too much racing. I don't know where these horses are going to come from. I don't know where they are coming from now. I think we are about at the bottom of the barrel.

MR. FARRELL: I agree with all you gentlemen have said. One thing I would like to bring out. I think the people who criticize us in not putting enough distance races on around the country have been bound to compare us with Hialeah. At Hialeah they run a lot of mile and a quarter races. The simple reason they run a mile and a quarter race is they can't run anywhere else. There are no other races for them. The preferred list is too big, so the general run of horse at Hialeah must go a mile and a quarter, but when he gets north he'll never run a mile and a quarter the rest of the summer. Why? Because he has other places to run. Quite often he'll even run 3/4 of a mile in the summertime.

As to the stabilizing that John mentioned, I agree with him 100%. I've got a meeting in Ohio, we used to race 44 days. I can stable just about 975 horses. Now we race 88 days. I can still stable just about 975 horses. It makes it a little rough on the corners. Another thing that is overlooked, I will say, by the trainers—although they will say I am picking on them—is that in my opinion distance races are much easier on horses than short races. I think if more people would try, if their horses have the correct breeding, to run over a distance of ground, they would be very surprised at the number that would go a distance of ground that normally they consider short. Charlie, what do you think?

MR. McLENNAN: Pst, I'd like to talk for just a minute on two-year-olds. In the first place, I am not in favor of these $100,000 and $150,000 two-year-old races. But I find that in the spring of the year when stall applications have been gone over, the first thing management says is, "Too many two-year-olds." Well, Kelso was a two-year-old at one time. When you get bad weather, and you need a race real bad, the first thought is to put on a cheap race, but if you go through your registration book you find that the majority of your horses, whether or not they have been screened in regard to applications, are two-year-olds. It's just like anything else, it will take a little time. But when I first went to Suffolk Downs, Charlie Adams was a great believer in two-year-olds and he believed that the form of a young horse after it was established was much truer than the old worn-out platers. We ran two two-year-old races every day and it turned out to be very successful.

Another thing is maidens. I told the boys this morning it would be great if you could get a condition book out and put a maiden race in and then when you printed the program, just have the printer delete the word "maiden." Everybody would be happy then, because the races are all right. And they have to break their maiden
sometime or other. Along with trying to build up the sport over a period of time I think that two-year-olds are important. If a man has a real good two-year-old, he doesn't want to rush him, but there are a lot of them that want to race their two-year-olds and the early two-year-old racing should be more or less confined to selling platers in maiden and claiming races. And in three-year-olds too, the maiden races are not bad. They have had two-year-old form, and of course after you run six or seven maiden three-year-old races, then you've got a chance to run a non-winner of two, which is natural. So I think that although most associations are more inclined not to want the maidens and the two-year-olds, over a period of time it might not be too bad an idea if we give a little thought to running more of them and then developing horses that way.

MR. KENNEDY: Does anyone here wish to direct a question to any member of this group?

DR. PETERS: Mr. Kennedy, I would like to make just one statement that might enter into this picture a little bit. We feel, going back to this x-ray program, if by this program we eliminate a lot of the two-year-old early racing, (this is not going to show up this year or next year, or perhaps two years from now), that maybe in the end, three or four years from now, we can look forward to the point where we are going to have older horses running longer and more horses entering into the racing than we have had up to now. How many times have you heard, and I have heard this many times, "Well, this would have been a good colt if we hadn't run him too many times as a two-year-old and now he's broken down and that's the end of him." If we could save a few of these two-year-olds by this method, then these Secretaries maybe won't have so many problems and they will have more horses available and maybe also, instead of the racing career being over at say five or six years, they can race until seven and eight and increase the number of times that they will race.

MR. KENNEDY: Thank you, John. I'd like to direct a question to Mr. Trotter. We have a lot of races, "Non-winners of two, or non-winners of a race other than maiden or claiming." Would it not be more encouraging to a man to run in an allowance race if you just made it plainly "Non-winners of two"?

MR. TROTTER: Just speaking for here in New York, this type of race I usually alternate. One week it will be "Non-winners of two" and the following week, "Non-winners of a race other than maiden or claiming." Of course I think it works out all right. The only time I find that possibly it is better to use the clause "Non-winners of other than maiden or claiming" would be in the month of July when you usually have a shortage of horses, and when you write "Non-winners of other than maiden or claiming" you allow yourself more horses to draw from.

MR. PERLMAN: I believe Mr. Farrell made a very sound observation in stating that distance races are easier on horses than sprints. This is accepted by most knowledgeable people in racing. By far the majority of horses that run in sprints are bred to go a distance, yet trainers prefer to enter them in sprints in which a horse has to run at full speed nearly all the way. In distance races a horse gallops most of the way and is set down for no more than about three furlongs. Is it not possible to have an educational program with owners and trainers to bring this point home? I have heard comments, particularly from visitors from overseas who are amazed when they frequently see only one distance race on a program of nine races. Last year on one of the most important Saturdays of the Fall Season at Aqueduct, with Kelso in the feature, seven of the nine races on the program were at distances under one mile. It seems to me that if horses are bred to go a route and if it is actually easier for horses to go a route, I would like to ask Mr. Jimmy Kilroe how he thinks a program of education could be implemented with trainers to accomplish this.

MR. KILROE: My first impression would be that in comparing our racing with racing in England, for instance, our people run very much with the thought of the purse foremost in their mind, and trainers, I am sure, feel that they can run back more often in short races, get more starts out of their horses, and if they don't want to pick up a piece of the purse, as they say, I agree it is essential that we educate our trainers in whatever way we can but not laboring the point of two-year-old racing. I certainly agree with Mr. Peters that we don't want to have excessive two-year-old racing and we don't want to have premature two-year-old racing, but I think we have to give to those beginner type horses some chance to establish form and they have to run short before they can run long. As all of my colleagues here agree, they would much rather have distance racing. We all would, but it is a fact that we need a bigger pool of horses to draw from. If we are going to keep specializing our racing down to 50% or 60% of the Thoroughbreds in training, we are just going to diminish the chance of getting distance racing.

MR. OFARRELL: With regard to two-year-old racing, I'd like to make a statement on the preparation of two-year-olds for racing.

I firmly believe that more yearlings are broken down in the training period before they become two-year-olds than those that break down racing as two-year-olds.

We, at Ocala Stud, break from 175 to 200 yearlings per year, usually starting them August 1. They go through an educational period, are taught the ABC's of racing, long slow gallops, gate work, standing in the gate, walking out of the gate, etc., for the first 90 to 120 days. We never breeze these yearlings until they have galloped at least 90 days, and by this time, they have developed plenty of bottom and are muscled up like old horses. When they reach this point they are ready to breeze. We start out breezing a slow 3/16 of a mile gradually increasing the distance, always keeping the breezes slow until by January we have mostly of our two-year-olds are in condition to breeze a quarter of a mile. At this time most of them are shipped to the race tracks and their future trainers take them over.

In contrast, many yearlings are put in training by inexperienced men who may be breaking and training yearlings for the first time or at least have not made a specialty of this particular kind of work. They are usually galloped about 30 days and then asked for speed when they are not up to it. Usually they start by bucking shins and if continued to be rushed along will develop ankle and knee trouble—all this before going to the races. Many of them are patched up and do get to the races as two-year-olds but seldom completely recover from their early problems.

My theory is that more young horses are broken down on the farms or at the training tracks than by actual racing. I think if we could develop an educational program in the preparation and training of young horses more along the line of the practices followed at Ocala Stud, we would have much sounder young horses in two-year-old racing and would not be criticized as strongly as we are in some quarters today for over-racing.

Slow, easy works developing plenty of bottom before being asked for speed is the answer in producing sound horses such as Carry Back, Roman Brother and others that have shown no infirmities during a hard racing career.

MR. KENNEDY: Thank you, Mr. O'Farrell.

Do we have any other comment?

MR. JACOBS: I've heard a lot of talk about saving two-year-olds. But the trouble is, after you save the two-year-olds, a lot of people who want to ship in three-year-olds can't get stalls. So what's the use of saving them? I've known so many people who have three-year-olds who haven't started and they can't get stalls. You ought to do something about that. They should get stalls. Just because a horse is a three-year-old and never started, he should not be denied a stall.
MR. FARRELL: I'd say the gentleman is absolutely right. When I am allotting stalls, which I do at a couple of meetings, I look down the list of horses. I had one the other day. A man had nine horses: 4 two-year-old maidens and 5 three-year-old maidens. Well, you know where that list wound up, don't you?

MR. MALUWIUS: That particular list, Pat, was the exception to the rule. I think Jimmy and the rest of the gentlemen will concur with me that a three-year-old maiden that is in training as a Racing Secretary allotting stalls, you'd much rather have him than a two-year-old. You know that any maiden three-year-old has great potential and that before your meeting is over he might possibly run a distance of ground. He may be a Derby potential or a topflight allowance type horse. If you do get an application where you have four two-year-olds and five maiden three-year-olds naturally the trainer is going to be cut down, but if he has a reasonably balanced stable with three-year-old maidens that have never started, you can't criticize them. You can't condemn them until they start. That's our program at present—to discourage two-year-old racing and save them for three-year-olds. There's been no question at Hollywood Park about a maiden three-year-old, if he's in training. Of course, if he's coming right out of the pasture, then it is a little difficult to get a stall.

This morning we discussed supplementary nominations, and where there is a supplemental, if the race is divided, what should happen to the supplemental fee? Should it be reduced in proportion to the size of the reduced purse, or should the supplemental go to the side of the race that the individual who paid the supplemental is on? In other words, if I were going to pay $25,000 to run as a supplemental in one of the rich Chicago races and the race be divided, should that money be divided into both halves or should that money go in the half of the race that I am in so that I have a chance to get my money back? I would like to hear some comments from the floor because I just ran into this situation less than a month ago. In other words, if I pay a $7,500 supplemental nomination to run in a $100,000 race and the race is divided, $50,000 in each end, should the supplemental be divided proportionately into both ends of the split or should the supplemental I paid be applied only to the split end in which my horse runs?

MR. JACOBS: I think if the purse is cut in half the supplemental should be cut in half too. And while we are talking about stakes, I haven't heard a single trainer yet say he's been in favor of all these early closing stakes. I think that's an important thing for us to talk about at some time.

MR. R. MOONEY: Would races fill with larger fields if extra races were eliminated?

MR. FARRELL: It depends on where you are racing and a number of other things. I changed my tactics at the meeting I'm at now. I ran 88 days last year and never wrote an extra race. But when I go to Hawthorne I will write a couple of extra races because no matter how good you are, there is no condition book in the world that you can put everything in and which will always fill.

MR. KENNEDY: I have to agree with Pat. Having been around the country quite a bit, I think it depends on your local situation and how many and what type horses you have.

I'll now ask Mr. Phipps to close the meeting.

MR. PHIPPS: I want to thank you all for coming, and I want to especially thank those people who spoke today. I think you'll all agree they did an excellent job.