

The Tie That Binds: Kellogg on Soil and Society. (S05-helms074146-Oral)

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Abstract:

Charles Edwin Kellogg, head of the U. S. soil survey from 1934 to 1971, often said helping people was his primary contribution. He was referring primarily, but not exclusively, to his role in providing a utilitarian soil survey to land users. Kellogg made scientific contributions as well, especially early in his career. He was a firm believer that the scientist should be involved in society. A blind devotion to pure science could be a formula for avoiding real problems. On the other hand, society's progress, especially in relationship to the land, would be difficult without the assistance of science. This outlook made him an astute observer of the interaction of soil and society. Thus, the scientific study of the soil and his interest in the humanities were of a piece, not separate intellectual endeavors. Kellogg left a record of his attitudes toward soil and society in *The Soils That Support Us* and numerous other publications.

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